

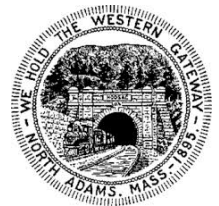
# North Adams ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

June 2025



**BRPC**

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



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# Introduction

**N**orth Adams is a community of 12,660 people located in the westernmost county in Massachusetts. It is the second largest municipality in Berkshire County and boasts of world-class cultural resources and outdoor recreation.

The federal definition of a person with disabilities is that the person has physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity, a person who has a history or record of such impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having an impairment. An “impairment” is not clearly defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Census Bureau consolidates disabilities into six types – hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living difficulties.

A greater percentage of North Adams’ population self-identifies as having a disability than the county as a whole and neighboring towns. The percentage of the population with disabilities increased from 18.9% in 2013, coinciding with an aging population.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a landmark legislation that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and requires communities to proactively take steps to eliminate barriers people with disabilities face when attempting to participate in the community and government affairs. Municipalities have both a legal obligation and moral duty to ensure that all residents are welcomed and have equitable access to government services and opportunities.

North Adams is a historic New England city. It was incorporated in 1878, more than 100 years before the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. The city owns multiple historic properties, which were not originally constructed to adhere to accessibility standards. The city undertook many renovations of city-owned properties, which adhere to accessibility building codes, and created accommodation opportunities to ensure equitable participation in government programs and services and the effort remains ongoing to eliminate barriers. However, the efforts to increase accessibility is an ongoing process.

An ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is a document the Department of Justice require municipalities to complete. In 2024, North Adams obtained a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability to conduct a new Evaluation, documenting the progress the city made and re-examining the properties in the continual effort to make facilities and programs as assessable as possible.

**Percentage of the Population with a Disability**

Area	Percent of population with a disability
North Adams	21.4%
Berkshire County	15.7%
Adams	17.5%
Clarksburg	13.0
Williamstown	9.9%
Stamford, Vt.	12.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. "Disability Characteristics." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1810, 2023, Accessed on February 12, 2025.



The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission conducted the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in collaboration with city officials and the Commission on Disabilities. The scope of the plan examines policy and procedures, building infrastructure, web accessibility, and sidewalks to identify and prioritize opportunities to increase accessibility.

The evaluations are based on the 2010 ADA Design Standards and the Commonwealth's accessibility building codes in 521 CMR. The intent of the plan is to be a guide for the city to bring its existing properties up to date to meet the most recent codes. This evaluation does not make any assertions regarding any safe harbors, undue burdens, or exemptions the city may be entitled to claim. The report and details contained within it are for general educational purposes only and do not constitute legal or professional architectural advice.

# Americans with Disabilities Act Overview

A person with a disability experiences discrimination when they are excluded from opportunities available to their peers. Municipalities are responsible for creating an accessible, barrier-free environment to uphold the civil rights of people with disabilities.

State and federal regulations, dating back more than 30 years, require cities and towns to proactively remove structural and programmatic barriers that restrict a person's access to public services and opportunities.

All state and local governments are required to follow specific architectural standards in either the new construction or the alteration of existing properties. Structural barriers typically found in public areas include routes of travel requiring the use of stairs, non-ADA compliant ramps, door widths that cannot accommodate the passage of a wheelchair, and the location of door handles that are out of reach ranges. If buildings are not currently adhering to the standards, public entities are required to make reasonable accommodations to provide that service to people with disabilities.

## Americans With Disabilities Act

Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush signed the 1990 Americans with Disability Act, legislation built upon years of Civil Rights progress. The act enhanced the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, of which Section 504 banned discrimination based on a disability in access to programs, services or activities, and is recognized as the foundation of the ADA as it is known today. Section 504, however, only applied to federal agencies or agencies receiving federal funding.

Using 504 as the foundation, the ADA expanded non-discrimination provisions to include in employment, state and local government, public accommodations, commercial facilities, transportation, and telecommunications.



President Bush signed the ADA in 1990.

Photo Credit: George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum.

The ADA is divided into five titles:

- Employment
- State and Local Government and Public Transportation
- Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities
- Telecommunications
- Miscellaneous Provisions

Title II applies to “public entities” and the programs, services, and activities they provide.

## The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards)

The Department of Justice developed the ADA Standards for Accessible Design in 1991, which provides a comprehensive set of design requirements needed for a public facility to be physically accessible. Cities and towns must comply with those established standards to be in conformance with the ADA. The Department updated the standards in 2010, which remain in place today. The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design are available online [by clicking this link](#).

The Department of Justice identifies and prioritizes the design standards into four categories:

- Priority 1: Accessible Approach and Entrance
- Priority 2: Access to Goods and Services
- Priority 3: Access to Public Toilet Rooms
- Priority 4: Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains and Public Telephones

## Massachusetts Architectural Access Board – M.G.L. c.22 §13A

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board is a state regulatory agency under the Executive Office of Public Safety responsible for developing and enforcing regulations to ensure public buildings are accessible, functional, and safe for people of all abilities.

MAAB developed 521 CMR, which is incorporated into the Massachusetts Building Code, which provides construction standards for different facilities, both municipally and privately owned. MAAB requires that all additions, reconstruction, remodeling, and alterations or repairs to existing public buildings are required to adhere to 521 CMR and local or state building inspectors enforce the code. 521 CMR is available online [by clicking this link](#).

521 CMR and the 2010 ADA Standards are often the same, however, there are some discrepancies. In those occasions, the more stringent law takes precedence.

521 CMR 3.3.1 is a provision for reconstructing, remodeling, and other alterations of public buildings requiring full compliance if the amount of work exceeds one of two thresholds: greater than 30% of the full and fair cash value of the building or costs more than \$100,000. If a community undertakes a project that is above one of the thresholds, not only is the work required to comport with 521 CMR but the entire facility must also include an accessible public entrance, and, if provided, an accessible toilet room, telephone, and drinking fountain.

521 CMR 3.3.1 does provide two exceptions:

*Exception: General maintenance and on-going upkeep of existing, underground transit facilities will not trigger the requirement for an accessible entrance and toilet unless the cost of the work exceeds \$500,000 or unless work is being performed on the entrance or toilet.*

*Exception: Whether performed alone or in combination with each other, the following types of alterations are not subject to 521 CMR 3.3.1, unless the cost of the work exceeds \$500,000 or*

*unless work is being performed on the entrance or toilet. (When performing exempted work, a memo stating the exempted work and its costs must be filed with the permit application or a separate building permit must be obtained).*

## Program Accessibility

Title II requires local governmental agencies to ensure that all their programs, services, and activities, when viewed in their entirety, are accessible to people with disabilities. Program access is intended to remove physical barriers to the local governmental agency services, programs, and activities, but it does not require that the local governmental agency make each facility, or each part of any given facility, accessible. Municipalities can achieve programmatic accessibility in a variety of ways. Local governmental agencies may choose to make structural changes or pursue alternatives to structural changes to ensure access. For example, the local governmental agency can move public meetings to accessible buildings and/or relocate services to accessible levels or parts of a building instead of undertaking costly renovations to make spaces accessible.

## Curb Ramps

When a public entity construct or alter roadways, it must install ramps to overcome physical barriers at the connection point between the roadway and a pedestrian pathway.

On existing roads and sidewalks that have not been altered, local governments are not required to install new ramps at every intersection. To provide program access, local governments can designate alternative routes to buildings that make use of an existing curb ramp where a person with disabilities must only travel a marginally longer route.

## Parks and Open Spaces

The ADA and 521 CMR are applicable to all public spaces, including recreational facilities and open spaces. If provided, all elements addressed in the ADA must conform with the regulations, including reach ranges, height, toe and knee clearance, operating force, slopes, width, and maneuverability.

The 2010 ADA Standards include additional requirements for amusement rides, recreational boating facilities, fishing piers, golf facilities, miniature golf facilities, play areas, swimming pools, and shooting facilities. 521 CMR provides additional guidance on water facilities, bowling alleys, locker rooms, campsites, picnic areas and highway rest areas, playgrounds, and marine facilities.

Passive recreation and conservation areas are only partially addressed under the regulations. If features are provided, including parking, picnic tables, grills, benches, and walkways, then those must be compliant.

## Historic Properties

The ADA provides an exemption for historic properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or a property designated as historic under state or local law. A public entity is not required to make alterations that would destroy or threaten the historical significance of a historic property. In historic properties, cities can utilize alternatives outlined in 28 CFR 36.405 and

ADAAG 4.1.7(3). An example of an alternative requirement would include providing displays and written information in a location where they can be seen by a seated person.

## Undue Burden

A local government agency does not have to take any action to make a feature compliant if that agency can demonstrate that the alteration will result in the creation of a fundamental alteration to the program or service or will cause undue financial and/or administrative burden.

A local public agency must provide a written statement outlining its reasoning for claiming an undue burden. To establish that an alteration of a feature will cause undue financial and/or administrative burden, the city must conduct an evaluation of all resources available for use in the program. The city's evaluation of resources must include the number of financial resources available, the effect of the expenses, the type and location of the facility, and the number of employees at the site. The entity must make alternative arrangements to ensure that people with disabilities receive the benefits and services of the program or activity.

## Safe Harbor

Elements in facilities built or altered before March 15, 2012, and comply with the 1991 ADA Standards for Accessible Design are not required to be modified to specifications in the 2010 Standards. For example, the 1991 Standards allow the maximum side reach control part of a paper towel dispenser to be 54 inches. The 2010 Standards lower that side reach range to 48 inches maximum. If a paper towel dispenser was installed prior to March 15, 2012, with its highest operating part at 54 inches, the paper towel dispenser does not need to be lowered to 48 inches because of the safe harbor provision.

# ADA Title II Self-Evaluation Requirement

The ADA requires all public entities with 50 or more employees to maintain an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The self-evaluation helps determine the adequacy of ADA compliance in public buildings, services, meetings, and programs. If the city decides, there is an undue burden in providing access or services, it must make that decision properly and expeditiously.

The ADA Self-Evaluation needs to include the people consulted, problem areas, and a description of any modifications. The activities and requirements the city should evaluate are:

- All physical barriers to accessibility.
- Adequate access to public meetings.
- Construction and design standards.
- Access to historic buildings where reasonable.
- Program materials.
- Employment practices.
- Programs, activities, and services.
- Access for telecommunication devices and teletypewriters.
- Provisions for readers or interpreters and assistive technology is properly maintained.
- Availability of policies and practices.
- Procedures to evacuate individuals with disabilities during an emergency.

The state and federal government does not expect cities to transition into full compliance immediately. Communities can achieve full ADA compliance through regularly evaluating the existing conditions for accessibility barriers and carefully planning and implementing the improvements when funding is available and ensuring that it has policies and procedures in place to ensure the services are available even if the physical infrastructure does not meet design standards.



# Evaluation of Administrative Requirements

Governments are required to establish local policies and procedures that will impact access to services and programs. Title II specifically requires cities to develop and publicize an ADA grievance procedure, post a public notice of non-discrimination, and appoint a staff member as the ADA Coordinator.

Title 1 also requires cities to have an Equal Employment Opportunity policy in place.

## ADA Coordinator

The ADA requires cities and towns with 50 or more employees to appoint a person responsible for coordinating the efforts of the city government to proactively comply with Title II requirements and oversee complaints of violations.

The law does not specifically refer to position as an “ADA Coordinator,” officials in state and local governments commonly adopted the term to refer to responsible person for ADA matters.

ADA Coordinators serve as the point person for the public to pose questions and express concerns about discrimination. The ADA Coordinator can be effective in providing the public with direct contact if they wish assistive technology, sign language interpretation, or documents in other formats.

The Department of Justice advises that ADA Coordinators should be familiar with the local community and government operations, be knowledgeable about the ADA and other laws relating to people, personal experience working with people with disabilities, be knowledgeable about of alternative communication formats and technologies that enable people with disabilities to fully participate in the community, work cooperatively with government officials and people with disabilities, possess mediation skills, and have analytical skills.

The Massachusetts Office on Disability provides a training video with further details about the roles and responsibilities of ADA coordinators. [Click this link to watch the video.](#)

North Adams appointed William Shanahan to serve as the ADA coordinator. The most recent appointment is dated April 11, 2025 . While the city does have an ADA Coordinator, it is not well publicized. The city should provide the information in multiple formats, including posting Shanahan’s name and contact information online.

Shanahan’s appointment letter is available below:



CITY OF NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Mayor  
**Jennifer A. Macksey**

TO: William D. Shanahan  
FROM: Jennifer A. Macksey, Mayor  
DATE: April 11, 2025  
RE: ADA Coordinator

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I hereby appoint William D. Shanahan to serve as the City of North Adams' ADA Coordinator effective as of the date of this appointment, which shall extend for his length of employment. William will ensure compliance in all applicable areas of the American with Disabilities Act, which shall include the management and oversight of the local Section 504 Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan.

Thank you,

Jennifer A. Macksey  
Mayor

JAM/mn

I:\2023 Open Space and Recreation Plan\ADA Compliance Information\ADA Employment Practices Statement.doc

## Grievance Policy

The ADA requires local governments with 50 or more employees to adopt public procedures for resolving grievances. The procedure outlines how an aggrieved person can file a complaint, alternative means to filing a written complaint, a description of the timeframe and processes the city will address the complaint, the appeals process, and the length of time that a complaint remain on file.

The Department of Justice advises that local governments distribute the procedure to all department heads, post copies in public spaces and on the website, and update the procedure as required. The procedure should also be available in alternative formats, such as large print, braille, audio, and more.

North Adams adopted a grievance policy, but it is not posted on its website. The city should increase the public's awareness of how someone can file a grievance if they feel harmed. The grievance policy reads as followed:

### The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of North Adams. The City's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to: William Shanahan, ADA Coordinator, 10 Main Street, North Adams, MA 01247 (413) 662-3000.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator or its designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or its designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator, or its designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and their designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Office of the Mayor or its designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor or its designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor or its designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or its designee, appeals to the Mayor or its designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City for at least three years.

## Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

Municipalities are also required to affirmatively and publicly proclaim that it will not discriminate against people with disabilities by issuing a public notice of non-discrimination.

The city has public notice but it is not well publicized. The city should post the notice on its website.

The city of North Adams public notice is available below:

### NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of North Adams will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in the City's services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** The City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (see also ADA Employment Practices statement on following page).

**Effective Communication:** The City will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

**Modifications to Policies and Procedures:** The City will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all City programs, services, and activities. For example,

individuals with service animals are welcomed in City offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact William Shanahan, ADA Coordinator, 10 Main Street, North Adams, MA 01247, (413) 662-3000, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a City program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the aforementioned contact information.

The City will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

# Evaluation of Policies and Procedures

Evaluation of policies and procedures that will have an impact on equitable access to city services, programs, and activities is required under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Inadequate or non-existent policies and procedures can be a large non-structural barrier to equal access for people with disabilities.

## ADA Policy

The city does not have a municipal-wide policy providing guidance to departments regarding accessibility. Each department is responsible for its own responsibilities.

BRPC issued a survey to all departments to evaluate the level of training, assistive technology the department has on hand to provide accommodation, whether information is available in different formats, and how departments respond to requests for accommodation.

Seven departments responded to the survey with mixed results. The departments that typically interact with people with disabilities more often had greater levels of training. The library has the greatest level of access to assistive technology.

The city should adopt a written policy detailing the process to provide non-discriminatory operations, effective communication, and facility access. BRPC is providing the city with local examples it can use for guidance with this report.

The library has access to technology. The city can use the library as a resource to make accommodation.

The responses to the survey are available on the next page:



**Policies and Procedures Evaluation: North Adams Services**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Staff Trained on ADA</b>	<b>Assistive Technology Available</b>	<b>Information Available in Different Formats</b>	<b>Accommodation Procedures</b>
Auditor	Provide financial oversight to ensure the city's financial operations are conducted legally and efficiently, and that taxpayer funds are used responsibly.	No	No	No	Unknown
City Clerk	Vital Records (Birth, Death Marriage) Cemetery plot certificates; Dog & Kennel Licenses; Business Certificates; Fuel Storage Licenses; Non-Criminal Citation payments - Dogs; City Charter; City Ordinances; Census; Voter Registration; Elections; Street Listings; Jury Listings; Ethics & Open Meeting; Boards & Commissions; City Council; Posting of Agendas; Maintain online and Files of Agendas and Minutes for Boards/Commissions & Council; Contract; Tracking of Appointments for Boards/Commissions and City;	No	Accessible voting machines	No	Find out what accommodation a patron needs and if the department can fulfill their needs they will.
Community Development	Internal planning, research and development/submissions	No	No	Upon request	Try to accommodate patrons as

	for various grant applications in which to build/study a wide array of public, and at times cooperative with private, real estate development projects				quickly as possible, however there is no formal procedure in place.
Information Technology	Manage the city's technology infrastructure, including computers, software, and networks.	Yes	No	No	None
Library	Provide educational material, support, and programming to community members of all ages.	Yes	Computer readers, audio devices for hard of hearing, access to books for the blind or those with diminished eye site.	Yes	Accommodate them to the best of our ability and resources and if we can't find someone or an organization that can.
Veterans Services	Provide assistance with claims, food pantry and other services to Veterans' and their families.	Yes	None	Upon request	To assist the patron if appropriate accommodation is not available.

## Snow Removal

Under Title II of the ADA, municipalities are required to ensure that all the programs and services they provide are accessible to individuals with disabilities, including municipal streetscapes. Timely and thorough snow clearing of all sidewalks and accessible routes is essential for supporting people's safety and independence.

For individuals with mobility impairments, inadequate snow removal can create significant obstacles, making it difficult to navigate icy sidewalks, ramps, or crosswalks. Thus, limiting access to essential services and reducing a person's independence.

After a snowstorm, the municipality is responsible for snow removal from all public rights of way under their control, including accessible elements such as sidewalks, crosswalks, curb cuts, on- and off-street accessible parking, ramps, and stairs. Failure to remove snow and ice in a timely and effective manner can result in injuries, personal injury lawsuits, and disability rights related lawsuits.

In accordance with Title II, 2010 ADA standards 302.1 states, floor and ground surfaces shall be *stable, firm, and slip* resistant and shall comply with 302. Similarly, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) 521 CMR 22.5 states, walkway surfaces shall be stable, and firm and shall lie generally in a continuous plane with a minimum of surface warping.

According to the Massachusetts of on Disabilities, snow and ice must be cleared down to the pavement and treated with an ice-melt to ensure a clear path of travel that is safe, slip resistant, and a minimum of 36 inches wide (or as wide as the sidewalk if the sidewalk is narrower than 36 inches).

Municipalities have the ability to delegate snow and ice removal from property owners.

The North Adams ordinance reads as follows:

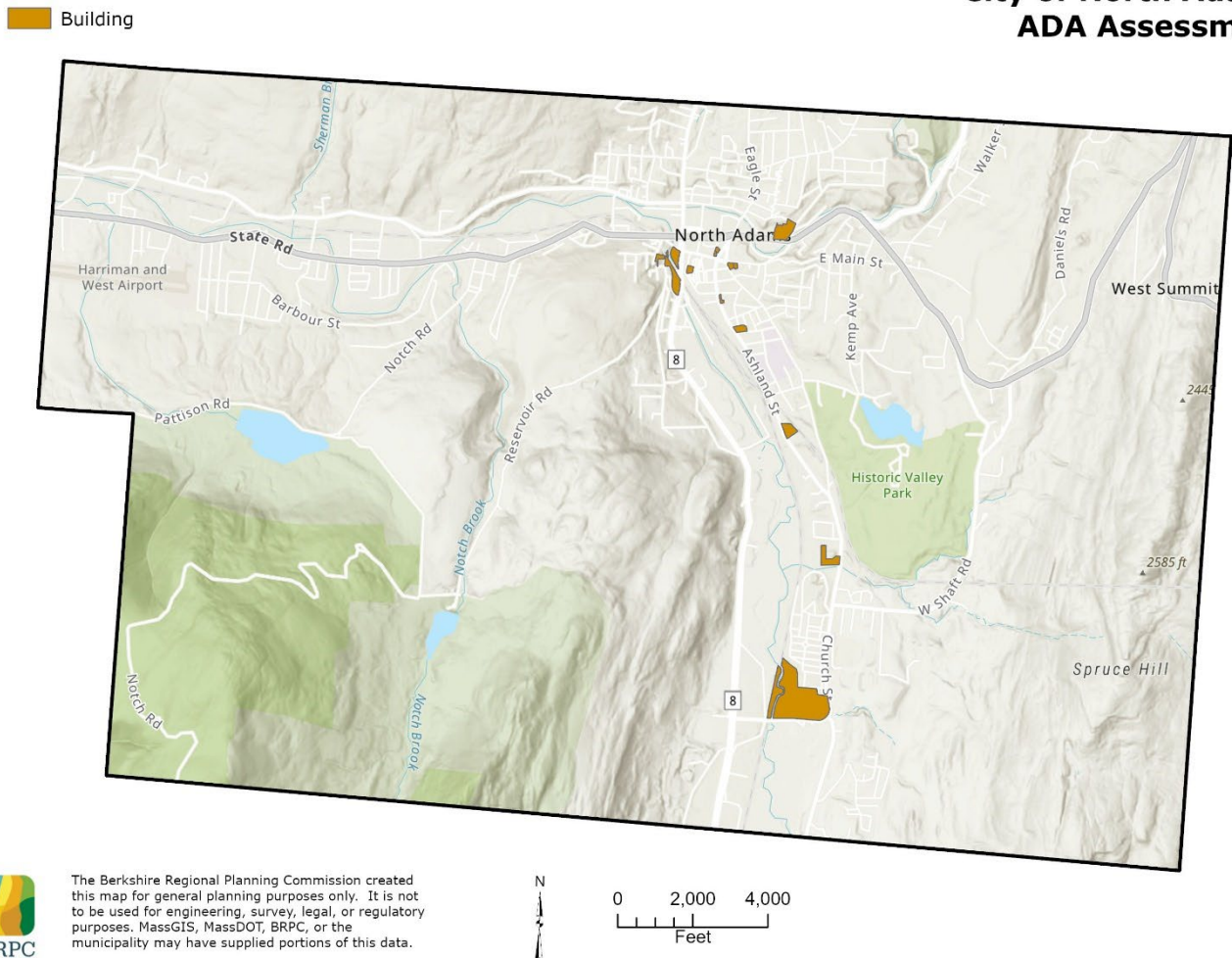
*North Adams Sec. 21-12 Snow and ice removal from sidewalks. Whenever any snow shall fall or ice shall fall or accumulate or be collected or deposited upon any sidewalk, any tenant or occupant or the owner or person having charge of the land abutting upon such sidewalk, shall cause the same to be removed therefrom within 12 hours. Whenever any sidewalk shall be encumbered with snow or ice contrary to the provisions of this section, the chief of police shall notify any tenant or the owner or person having the care of the land abutting thereon, to cause such sidewalk to be made safe and convenient for travel by removing the snow, and as far as practicable the ice therefrom, within six hours from the time of receiving such notice.*

The Massachusetts Office on Disability recommends that cities also develop programs to assist people with disabilities who do not have the physical capability to clean the sidewalks in front of their homes. Such programs involve partnering with high schools and youth organizations to have students clean the sidewalks for them.

North Adams could better serve the disability community by developing a partnership and program to clean sidewalks for those who cannot.

# Evaluation of City-Owned Buildings

## City of North Adams ADA Assessment

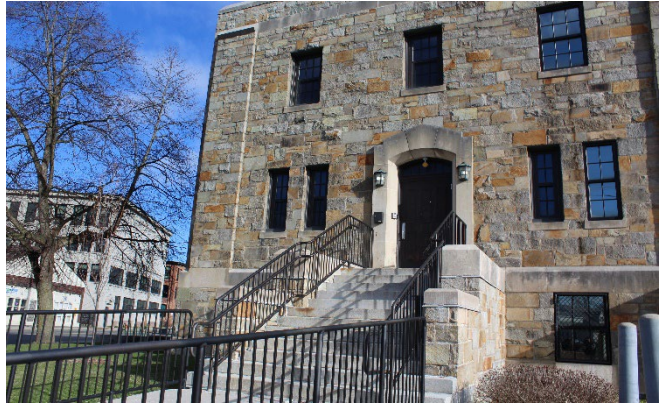


## Armory

A former National Guard headquarters on Ashland Street serves as a community recreational center and hosts the Northern Berkshire Adult Education Program. The building includes a large gymnasium, restrooms, offices, and classroom space.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are two van accessible parking spaces in the parking lot, which is ADA compliant. The signs, however, are below standards. 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 531 CMR 23.6.4 require the base of the sign to be a minimum of 60" from the ground.



The Armory serves as a community center and hosts the Northern Berkshire Adult Education Center.

The parking lot leads to an accessible entrance and elevator. There is an additional entrance that is not accessible by wheelchairs because of stairs but it has appropriate and compliant handrails.

The accessible entrance would benefit from an automatic door opener.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The Armory features several offices, classrooms, and a gymnasium. There is an elevator, installed in 2010, providing access to all levels.

Thresholds throughout the hallway are not compliant because they exceed 1/4" maximum change in level outlined in 303.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.10. Additionally, there are heating system control boxes and an automated external defibrillator that are protruding into the walkways. Objects between 27" and 80" off the ground are not detectable by a cane and cannot extend more than 4" from the wall in accordance with 307.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.6.1.



The control systems are protruding objects.

There are door knobs on the door to enter the adult education center. Hardware is noncompliant if it requires someone to grasp or twist as defined in 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.11.1.

Some of the spaces have noncompliant signs identifying them rooms. Signs must be tactile to comply with 216.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.1.1. The city would benefit from installing new signage throughout the building.



The threshold to enter the gymnasium is also above ¼". There is an accessible concession stand.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two restrooms available, one designated for men and one for women. Both are accessible.

The men's room does not have sufficient clear floor space in front of the sign because a water fountain is in the way. 703.4.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards require 18" of clear floor space next to the doorway for someone to read the sign. Additionally, the door requires approximately 10 lbs. of pressure, which is above the 5 lbs. maximum pressure outlined in 404.2.9 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1 (b).

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are accessible drinking fountains in the building.



The city could increase accessibility by installing signs throughout the building to identify spaces.



There are several thresholds that are not in compliance.



The bathrooms are compliant.



The doors to the bathrooms require approximately 10 lbs. of pressure.



The signs are too low to meet standards.



## City Hall

North Adams constructed its current City Hall in 1974. It is a two-story building housing both city and school department offices. The city provides services to residents and holds meetings on the first floor including tax collection, veterans services, inspections, and the offices of the auditors, assessor, community development, treasurer, and community development.

The second floor features non-public offices and its layout and features are identical to the first. The School Department uses the offices but all public services and meetings are held in accessible locations.



There is a ramp providing visitors with access to city hall.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The parking lot features 67 spaces. 208.2 of the ADA Standards requires a total of three accessible parking spaces for lots with 51-75 total spaces. Additionally, 521 CMR 23.2.2 requires that there be at least one van accessible space.

There are three spaces identified for accessibility, one of which is designated as van accessible.

One of the standard accessible spaces is not compliant with 502.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.4.6 because there is no aisle access. Both codes require a five-foot aisle that connects with an accessible route into the building.

**The city should install a five-foot aisle next to the space currently without one.**



There is a change in level at the intersection between the parking lot and the curb ramp.

There is an accessible route from the parking lot to the front entrance of the building. The route is demonstrating signs of wear and tear. There are multiple locations where the sidewalk's deterioration created changes in levels, including the curb cut from the parking lot to the accessible route, and trip hazards. The city should plan for significant sidewalk repairs.

A concrete ramp provides access to the front door. In multiple locations the slope of the ramp exceeds the 8.3% grade allowed by both the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR. Two measurements showed slopes of 9.3% and 8.6%. The ADA,

however, provides an exemption for existing buildings where slopes are not feasible because of space limitations. The switchback design limits the total rise and the ramp is compliant.

The front door features an automatic door opener to provide easy access to the building. The threshold into the doorway is not compliant because of wear and tear. The transition currently has a change in level above the ¼" allowed in the 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1.

The city needs to eliminate the change in level or install a new threshold that is beveled on both sides.

There is parking near an inaccessible entrance as well. None of those spaces are dedicated for accessibility and there is a compliant directional sign indicating where the accessible entrance and parking is located.



There is no aisle access in the accessible space to the far right.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Upon entering the door, visitors proceed into a large open lobby. There are several offices spanning down an adjacent hallway. The offices are properly identified. The Veterans' Services Office, however, is impeded by a bench. 703.4.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards requires a minimum of 18" of floor space on the side of door so someone can read the sign without being struck by the door. 521 CMR 41.2.1 requires the mounting location to "allow a person to approach within three inches of signage without encountering protruding objects or standing within the swing of the door."

The city can move that bench to another location to ensure accessibility.



The bench encroaches on the signage for the Veterans' Services office.

Further down the hallway, there is an entrance to an employee space. On the wall is an automated external defibrillator hanging on the wall. The AED is approximately 46" off the ground and extends beyond 4" from the wall. It is not compliant with 307.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.6.1, which limits the anything between 27" and 80" off the ground from protruding into a walkway more than 4". The code is designed for people using a cane to be able to detect the protrusion.

The city could recess the AED into the wall, as it has done with fire extinguishers elsewhere, lower the AED to be hang below 27", or install a platform under it for someone with a cane to detect.

The offices all have compliant service counters.

The city holds public meetings in its City Council Chambers, also located on the first floor. The chamber has an automatic door opener to enter the gallery. Once inside there is designated accessible seating.

While services are not directly provided from the second floor, there is an elevator providing access if the city is accommodating employees or other visitors to those spaces. The elevator could benefit from an upgrade.



There is insufficient space from the far wall to the toilet.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two public restrooms on the first floor of the building. Both have appropriate signs at the latch side of the doors.

The doors are too heavy and not in compliance with 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1, which requires a maximum of 5 lbs. of pressure to open.

Each restroom is designed the same. There is one accessible stall in each. The stalls have grab bars and have sufficient space in front of the toilet and to the furthest side. However the flush controls are not located on the “open side of the water closet” as required by 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and \_\_\_\_.

MAAB 30.1 (a) requires at least one wheelchair accessible stall in public buildings. There is insufficient space in the restroom for a fully compliant wheelchair accessible stall. The stall must be at least 60” wide, according to 604.8.1.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards. The stalls at City Hall do not provide that width.



The elevator is missing braille and tactile control identifications as defined in Table 407.4.7.1.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

There is approximately 32” from the sidewall to the toilet, which is not in compliance with 521 CMR 30.7.2, which requires at least 42” from the furthest wall.

Each stall also features a compliant sink and mirror. The city could increase accessibility by converting non-compliant sinks into accessible sinks.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There is a compliant water fountain located near the restrooms.



## DPW

The Department of Public Works building located on Hodges Cross Road features open garage space for employees and a reception area. The building is seldom accessed by the public, but visitors are welcomed to share concerns and ask questions from staff.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no accessible parking on site. The parking lot is paved, providing an accessible route into the building, but none of the spaces are defined. The city needs to define the parking area to determine the number of accessible spaces required and appropriately install accessible parking.



There is no accessible parking on site.

The route into the building is accessible. Upon entering, visitors are greeted to a small sitting area and staff desks.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Staff are available to provide service upon entering the building. The service desks are compliant.



The restrooms are not accessible.

The remainder of the building is not open to the public but provides opportunities for greater public use in the future.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two toilet rooms the public can use. Neither is accessible. The restrooms need a complete overhaul to be compliant because there is insufficient space and no accessible features.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Fire Station

The Fire Department is located on American Legion Drive. The building serves as mostly garage space for the Department's apparatuses and equipment. The public does most of its business online but can go to the fire house for permitting and other questions and can serve as an emergency shelter.

The building is not accessible.

### Priority 1- Approach and Entrance

There is no parking located at the front of the building. The closest parking is available on Summer Street, near the former Police Department. There is one dedicated accessible space on the street.

The path from the parking space to the entrance of the Fire Department exceeds the 5% maximum slope for an accessible path in 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

The sidewalk extends to the front of the Fire Department. However, the garage bays are sloped for the trucks to leave the station. That slope creates a cross slope on the walking path that exceeds the maximum of 2% in 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.4.3.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Upon entering the building, visitors are greeted at a service counter to conduct business. 904.3.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 7.2.1 (c), which establish a maximum of 36" height for counters. The counter at the Fire Department is approximately 44" tall.



The restrooms are not compliant.



The Fire Department is not accessible.

There are no other areas in the Fire Station the public accesses goods and services. The garage space is open when the trucks are not located there. The trucks can be moved to provide additional access if needed.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There is a toilet room located in the garage space the public can use. The restroom is not access for numerous reasons including, but not limited to, inaccessible sink, no grab bars, improper door hardware, and toilet paper and mirrors are not appropriately located.

The city needs to renovate the entire restroom to be compliant.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no elements at the Fire Station the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



## Harriman and West Airport

The airport building is newly constructed. It features pilot lounges, classrooms, and an open office designed to accommodate private business.

The building is fully accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The airport has sufficient and compliant accessible parking and route into the building. ADA and MAAB standards require one space, which must be van accessible in a parking lot with less than 25 spaces. The city is compliant.



The newly constructed airport is fully compliant.

Additionally, an outside area featuring benches for visitors to watch airplanes take off and land is on an accessible route and features accessible benches.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The classrooms and lounges are accessible.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

The building features two fully compliant restrooms.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There is a compliant drinking fountain located in the building.

## Mary Spitzer Senior Center

The Mary Spitzer Senior Center houses the Council on Aging. The building supports residents over the age of 55 through advocacy, communication, and collaboration and works to identify and meet the needs of the aging adult population.

The building is located on Ashland Street and features two large gathering spaces, offices, and two restrooms.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

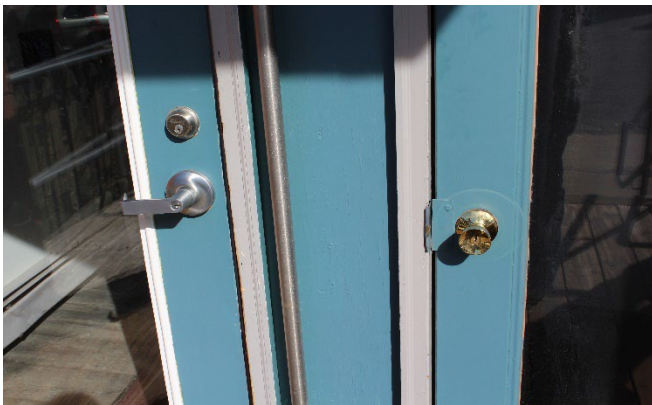
There is one accessible parking space in the parking lot. The signage and linings are faded but it appears the space also includes a large aisle with adequate width to accommodate van parking.

The sign should be replaced and include language specifying that it is van accessible in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 23 (c)(b).

The parking lot could accommodate more than 25 spaces, which would require a second accessible space to comply with 208.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.1.

There is an accessible route into the building, including a compliant switchback ramp. At the connection between the accessible path into the building and the parking lot, the concrete is broken, creating a change in level beyond  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1. The city should repave the parking lot to even out the change in level.

The door has an automatic door opener. The door closes in approximately 3.5 seconds, which is quicker than the five seconds required by 404.2.8.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and the six seconds required by 521 CMR 26.9. The city should adjust the closing speed to allow for adequate time for a person to enter or exit the building.



The city installed an automatic door opener and appropriate handles on the main entrance. The door opener, however, closes too quickly and needs to be adjusted.



The Spitzer Center is home to the Council on Aging. The accessible parking space sign and lines are faded and there is a change in level from the parking lot to the accessible walkway.

A front entrance provides additional access. The pathway to the door is too steep. The accessible path to the door measures at a 9.9% grade, which exceeds the 5% limit outlined in 402.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

The city could regrade to a 5% slope or regrade to a 8.3% slope and install compliant handrails to make that entrance accessible.

The transition currently has a change in level above the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " allowed in the 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1. The city needs to repair the concrete at the entrance to ensure a smooth transition into the building.

There is no signage indicating where the accessible entrance is located. The city could also become compliant by installing a sign indicating where the accessible entrance is located, in accordance with 216.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 43.1.3(c).

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The goods and services are provided in two large, open rooms.

The permanent spaces do not have appropriate tactile signs as required by 216.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.1.1.



The walkway into the Ashland Street entrance is too steep.

The amount of pressure required to open the door to the community room exceeds 5 lbs. of pressure, as limited by 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1. The city needs to replace the door with a lighter door or adjust hinges to reduce required pressure.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

The restrooms are compliant.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Mohawk Theatre

The Mohawk Theatre is currently under construction. The public does not have access to the building.

BRPC did not evaluate the theatre because of its current condition. The reconstruction must adhere to accessibility codes.



The Mohawk Theatre is currently not accessible to the public.



# North Adams Public Library

The North Adams library at the corner of Church and East Main Street dates back to the 1800s. Originally a residential home, the library moved to the current location in 1898 and received a significant renovation in 2003.

The building is three floors, featuring reading rooms, book stacks, and community meeting rooms.

## Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The parking lot has two accessible parking spaces, one of which is identified as being van accessible. There is an accessible path to the accessible entrance. There is also a sign indicating where the accessible entrance is located.



There is compliant parking at the library.

Visitors follow the accessible path to a door with an automatic door opener. The door closes too fast. The minimum closing speed is five seconds in 404.2.8.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and six seconds in 521 CMR 26.9. The city should adjust the closing speed to provide additional time for a visitor to enter the building.

## Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Upon entering the building, visitors can travel into multiple rooms. The bookshelves and sitting areas are all appropriately spaced. A service counter is the appropriate height.

There is an accessible elevator to the upper floors. The layout is similar to the first floor and there are no barriers to accessing goods and services on the upper floors.



A coat rack is out of reach ranges.

There is a coat rack that is outside of reach ranges defined in 308.2.1 and 521 CMR 6.5, which limits items to 48" high. The library should lower the coat rack to within reach ranges.

## Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

Each floor has public toilet rooms. All restrooms feature grab bars, accessible sinks and toilets, and dispensers.

All bathrooms pose challenges with turning spaces. A 60" diameter of turning space is required by 304.3.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 6.3. The city should consider expanding the bathrooms to provide sufficient space.

The space limitations are specifically pronounced on the upper floors. Those are not accessible due to a lack of space. The city should consider installing new accessible bathrooms on the upper floors.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There is a water fountain located on the first and top floor. Both are compliant.



## Former Northern Berkshire YMCA

The former Northern Berkshire YMCA cohabitates Brayton Hill Elementary School. The building features numerous sports facilities including a pool, racquetball courts, and locker rooms. The city currently operates the facilities, which is in need of overall renovation.

The city currently has a plan to build a new elementary school and move the students out of the building. Future accessibility improvements and capital investments will depend on future use for the rest of the building.

The former YMCA has several accessibility challenges.



There is adequate accessible parking located on the site.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are three accessible parking spaces designated in the parking lot, none of which are van accessible. 208.2.4 of the 2010 Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2 require at least one van accessible space. Van accessible spaces can either be eight feet wide with an eight-foot aisle or 11 feet wide with a five-foot aisle. The van spaces must also include signs indicating that it is van accessible.

The parking lot is firm and appropriately sloped. However, the concrete at the ramp is deteriorated creating a change in level above  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which is the maximum allowed in 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

There is no push-button opener on the front door, which is not required but provides additional accessibility. The door is compliant.



The concrete at the ramp is breaking down.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Upon entering the building patrons are greeted at a compliant service counter. Several rooms throughout the building have non-compliant doorknobs on the door, which should be replaced with lever sets in accordance with 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.11.1.

The permanent spaces throughout the building do not have tactile signs, which is not compliant with 216.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.1.1. All permanent spaces should have appropriate signage.

The threshold to enter the racquetball courts are not in compliance with 404.2.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1 and need to be repaired.

The pool is compliant, including featuring a lift to assist people getting into the water.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two restrooms available shortly after entering the building. Both men's and women's rooms faced similar challenges.

Neither one is appropriately signed. Signs need to be tactile and located on the latch side of the door and 48" to 60" above the ground floor. Section 703 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.00 details the sign requirements.

The doors require approximately 8 lbs. of pressure to open, which is above the 5 lbs. limit for interior doors in 404.2.9 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1 (b). The city can adjust the closers to alleviate the pressure.

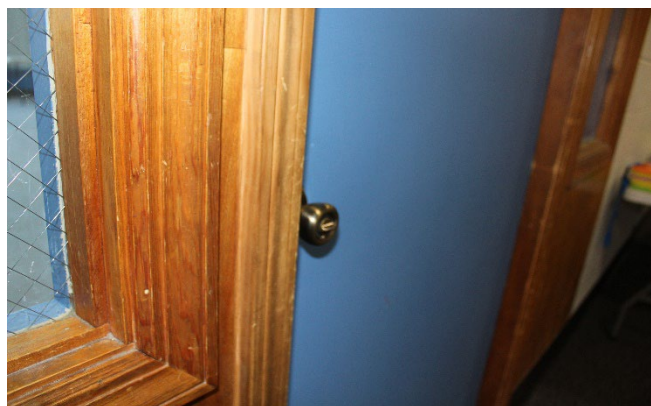
The pipes under the sink are exposed which does not adhere to 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5.

The mirrors in the restroom are 52" from the ground, which is above the maximum 40" allowed in 603.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.11.

The toilet paper dispenser is not located 7"-9" from the edge of the toilet seat as defined in 604.9.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.6. Additionally, the location of the toilet paper dispenser infringes on the required 18" of space from the center of the toilet to the wall required in 604.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.2.



The centerline location of the toilet paper dispenser needs to be 7"-9" from the edge of the toilet seat.



Door hardware throughout the building should be switched to a lever set.

The flusher in the accessible stalls are located on the wrong side of the water closet. 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5 require the flusher to be on the open side of the toilet.

The coat hooks are located 60" off the ground, which is above the 48" maximum allowed in 603.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and above 54" maximum allowed in 521 CMR 30.6.2.

There are also family bathrooms facing similar challenges to the men's and women's restrooms.

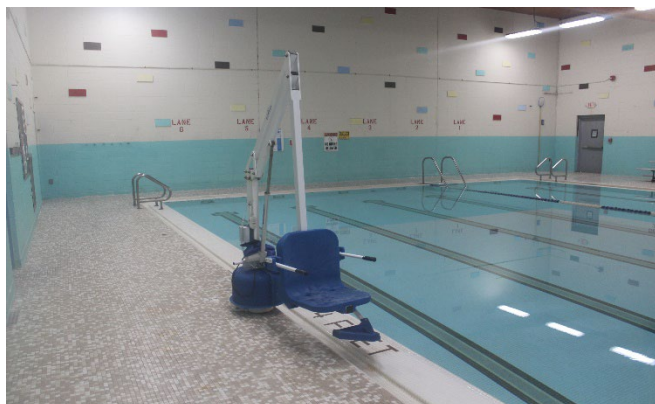
The flush controls are located on the wrong side of the closet and coat hooks are outside of reach ranges.

Additionally, leaving the family restroom to get into the pool area requires a large step, which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

There is a bathroom in the spin room. There is no signage, sink pipes are exposed, flush controls are on the closed side of the water closet, and the mirror is too high.

There are two locker room areas facing similar challenges plus the doorways are only 30" wide, which is not in compliance with 404.2.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.5. There must be 32" of clear opening.

The locker rooms also have doors that are too heavy, exposed supply and drainage pipes, mirrors too high, and changes of level separating various spaces including the showers and sauna. Additionally, there is a phone and coat hooks that are located beyond reach ranges detailed in 308.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 6.5. The phone should be no higher than 48" from the ground.



The pool is compliant.



Steps throughout the locker room makes shower rooms and the sauna inaccessible.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

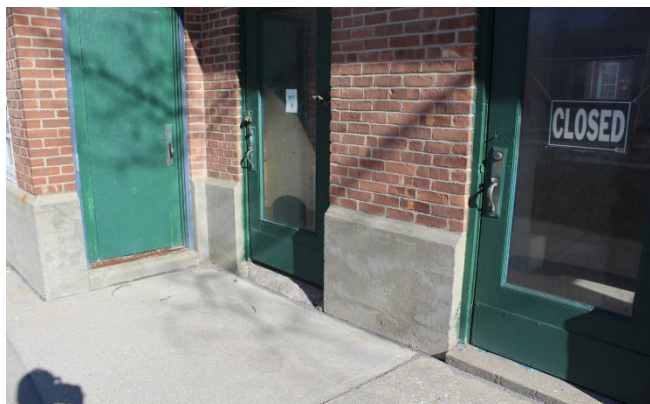
There is a non-compliant water fountain located in the bathrooms. The handle requires grasping and twisting of the wrist, which does not comply with 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.11.1.



## Office of Tourism and Chamber of Commerce (Windsor Mill)

An outbuilding in the parking lot of the Windsor Mill serves as a tourism center where visitors can learn about attractions and amenities of North Adams. The city owns both the Windsor Mill and the Office of Tourism.

The mill is rented by commercial tenants. The city does not provide any direct service or host activities in the mill, only the private occupants do. Neither the mill nor the Office of Tourism is accessible.



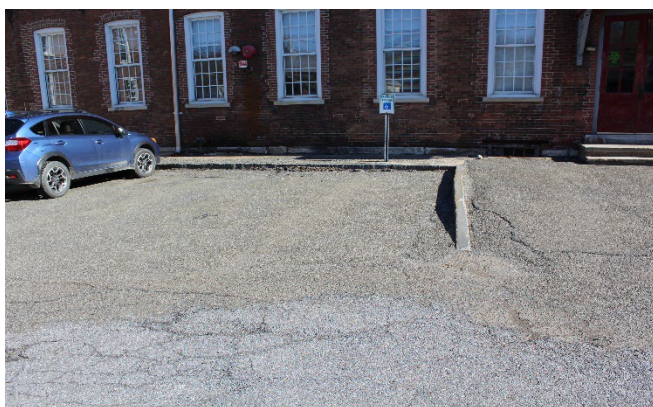
The Office of Tourism is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is one accessible parking space in the parking lot. It is not van accessible, does not have an appropriate aisle, the sign is too low, and does not have high-contrast paint.

208.2.4 of the 2010 Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2 require at least one van accessible space. Van accessible spaces can either be eight feet wide with an eight-foot aisle or 11 feet wide with a five-foot aisle. The van spaces must also include signs indicating that it is van accessible. The ADA requires in 503.3.3. that van accessible spaces have aisle markings to dissuade people from parking in those spaces. 521 CMR 23.4.6 (e) requires aisles to be painted with diagonal lines.

The space is not delineated in accordance with 521 CMR 23.4.5 which requires that cities mark spaces with high contrast paint.



The accessible space does not have appropriate signage, line painting, and is not designated for van accessibility.

Parking signs should be 60 inches above ground in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR Section 23.6.

The parking lot is paved to provide firm ground. The entrance to the Office of Tourism is not accessible.

A small ramp, without railing, provides access to the building. The ramp measures at approximately 16% slope, which exceeds the maximum 5% slope for an accessible route under 402.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9. The city cannot simply add compliant railing because the maximum slope for ramps is 8.3%.

The other entrances have thresholds with a change in level above  $\frac{1}{4}$ " which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The office is open space once someone gains access to the building. There are no accessibility challenges once someone can get into the building.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms available in the Office of Tourism building. The closest restroom is inside Windsor Mill. The Windsor Mill is not accessible because there is no accessible route into the building. The restrooms in the building are not accessible for several reasons.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no elements at the Office of Tourism the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The ramp to provide access into the building is significantly steeper than the ADA limits.

## Police Department

The Police Department is now located inside leased space at 21 Holden Street after moving out of its prior Summer Street headquarters. The public space include a lobby with two restrooms. The public spaces are accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are two parking spaces labeled as accessible. Neither are signed to be van accessible in accordance with 208.2.4 of the 2010 Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2 and the signs are both below the required 60" from the ground in 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR Section 23.6.

There is an accessible route into the building.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

After entering the building visitors enter into an open lobby. There is an accessible service counter for an officer to provide assistance.

There is an accessible two-level water fountain. However, the fountain is not recessed so acts as a protruding object. Objects between 27" and 80" off the ground are not detectable by a cane and cannot extend more than 4" from the wall. The city should place an object underneath the water fountain for canes to detect.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

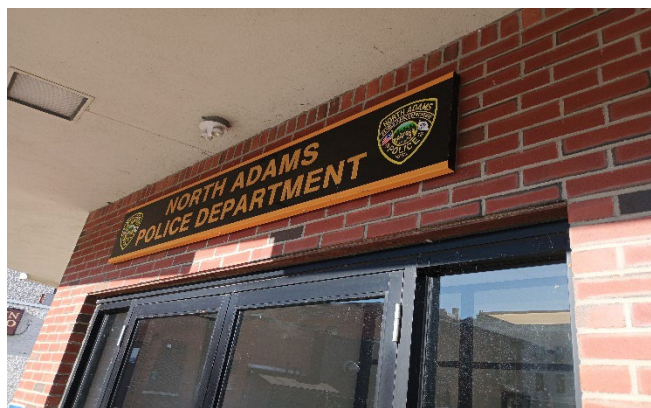
The restrooms are mostly accessible. The toilet paper dispenser in the men's room is located approximately 12" from the edge of the toilet, which is not in compliance with 604.9.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards, which require the center line of the toilet paper to be located between 7" and 9" from the edge of the toilet seat.

The flush controls in the women's room is not located wide side of the water closer in accordance with 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5.

The coat hooks in both bathrooms measure at 54" from the ground, which is above the maximum 48" allowed in 308.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards. 521 CMR 20.6.1 (d) provides a greater allowance of 54".

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There is a compliant water fountain located in the lobby. However, it does act as a protruding object.



The Police Department is located in leased space on Holden Street.



The fountains are accessible but act as a protruding object.



## St. Elizabeth Polling Station

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish provides the city with access to its gymnasium for voting. The church space has many accessibility elements including open space for polling but the restrooms are not accessible and there are challenges associated with the approach and entrance.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are two spaces signed for accessibility in the parking lot. Neither of them are van accessible in accordance with 208.2.4 of the 2010 Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2. Additionally, there is no aisle access painted in accordance with 503.3.3 and 521 CMR 23.4.6 (e).



There is a walkway into the building but it does not have a compliant slope.

One of the two signs are both below the required 60" from the ground in 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR Section 23.6.

After parking voters can go get to a concrete walkway to the building. At the intersection of the concrete pad and the parking lot there is curbing eliminating an accessible route to the walkway. 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4 limits changes in level along accessible routes to 1/4".

The walkway is sloped at approximately 7%, which is slightly above the 4% maximum allowed in 402.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

At the entrance to the building the threshold is no longer flush with the concrete, creating another change in level which is not in accordance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.



The curb cut is not compliant, limiting access from the accessible parking to the walkway into the building.

However, during voting hours voters typically park in a lot across the street and police officers are on hand to provide assistance, which serves as an accommodation.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Voting takes place in a large auditorium. There are no accessibility challenges with the space.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are bathrooms located on site but they are not wheelchair accessible. There is no accessible stall in either of the restrooms.

Additionally, neither of the rooms have appropriate tactile signs in accordance with 216.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.1.1.

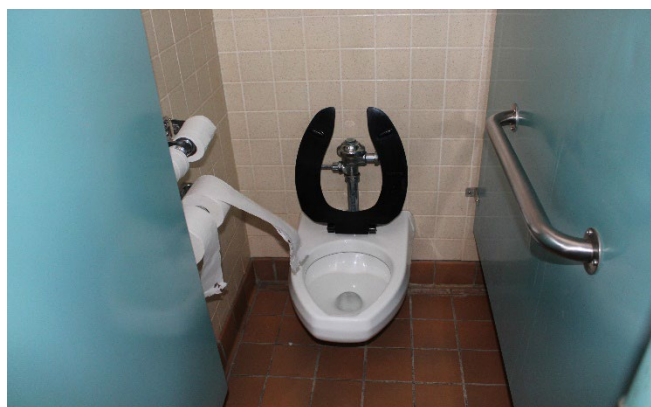
The supply and drainage pipes are not covered in accordance with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5.

The paper towel dispensers are located outside of reach ranges. Dispensers should be no higher than 48" off the ground in accordance with 308.2.1 and 521 CMR 6.5.

The doors to the restroom require approximately 10 lbs. of pressure to open, which exceeds the 5 lbs. limit in 404.2.9 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1 (b).

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

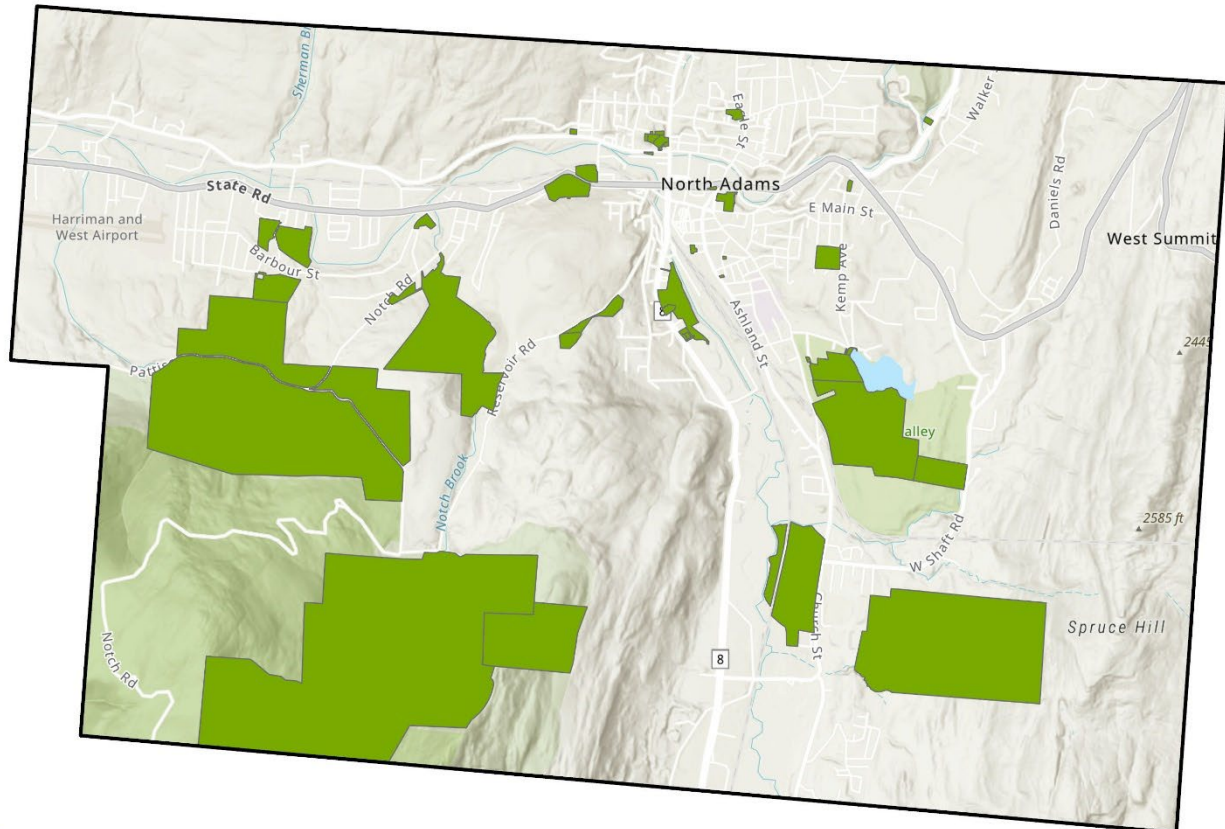


The restrooms have ambulatory accessible toilet but not wheelchair accessible stalls.

# Evaluation of Parks and Recreational Areas

## City of North Adams ADA Assessment

 Park



The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission created this map for general planning purposes only. It is not to be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. MassGIS, MassDOT, BRPC, or the municipality may have supplied portions of this data.



0 2,000 4,000  
Feet

The owns 17 outdoor areas providing residents with an array of opportunities to enjoy active and passive outdoor recreation.

The evaluation of the properties follow the Department of Justice's four priorities – Approach and Entrance, Access to Good and Services, Toilet Rooms, and additional access to such items as drinking fountains and public telephones.



## Alcombright Athletic Fields

Alcombright Athletic Field is a sporting complex in west end of the city. The park features a playground, two softball fields, a soccer field, T-ball field and a baseball field.

There are bathrooms available on the property the city opens during games.

The park has some accessible elements but is not fully accessible. The Commission on Disabilities is in favor of prioritizing accessibility improvements at Alcombright Athletic Fields.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are two large parking lots, one on each side of Protection Avenue.

Each parking lot has the appropriate number of accessible parking spaces, including designated van accessible spaces in each lot.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible path of travel from the parking lots to the softball and baseball fields. There is no accessible path to the soccer field. Section 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1 require all elements within the same site to be connected by an accessible path.

The accessible path approaches the playground but there is a large different in levels between the accessible path and the surface of the playground, which exceeds the maximum  $\frac{1}{4}$ " change in level

allowed in 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4. The city should raise the level of the playground or install an accessible transfer ramp.

The playground does not have sufficient ratio of ground-level elements to aerial elements in accordance with 240.2.1.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

There is one trash receptacle located on an accessible path near the baseball fields.



The Alcombright Athletic Fields feature sports fields, a playground, and restroom facilities.



The toilet paper dispenser is too far from the toilet.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two restroom buildings located at Alcombright Fields. The facility located near the full-sized baseball field has an accessible path to approach and has appropriate signage.

The flush controls in the accessible stall in the women's room is incorrectly located. The flush controls should be located on the wide side of the water closer in accordance with 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5. The flush controls in the men's room is in compliance.

The drainage pipes under the sinks in both facilities are exposed, which is not in compliance with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5. The pipes should be insulated or guarded.



Bathroom piping should be insulated or guarded.

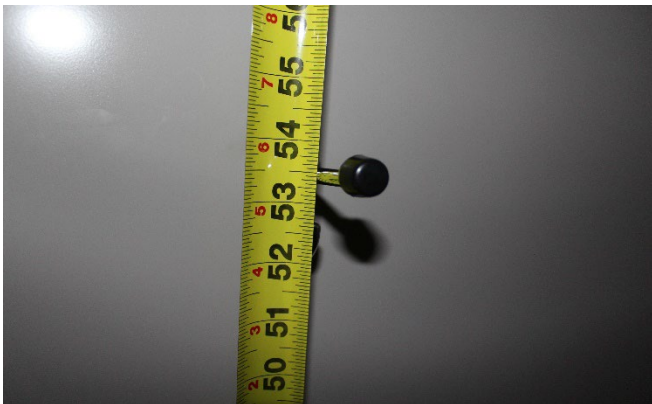
The coat hangers measures at 54" from the floor, which is above the maximum 48" allowed in 308.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards. 521 CMR 20.6.1 (d) provides a greater allowance of 54".

The facility located near the T-ball field is not accessible because there is no accessible route to the entrance as required by 206.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.1. There are two toilet rooms in the building, both are family restrooms.

The entrance to both rooms have thresholds that are above 1/4" which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

The drainage pipes under the sinks in both facilities are exposed, which is not in compliance with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5. The pipes should be insulated or guarded.

The toilet paper dispenser in both toilet rooms are located too far from the toilet. 604.9.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards require the center line of the toilet paper to be located between 7" and 9" from the edge of the toilet seat. The centerline of the dispensers at Alcombright are located approximately 16" from the edge of the toilet seat.



The coat hangers are out of compliance with the ADA.

The flush controls in the restroom on the eastern side of the building is not in compliance with 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5, which requires the controls to be located on the open side of the toilet.

There is a sign on the door recognizing that the doors "gets stuck." 521 CMR 26.8.1 (a) limits the amount of force required to open an exterior door to 15 lbs. The city should fix the door from sticking to avoid issues of non-compliance.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



## Ashland Street Mini Park

The city maintains a small downtown pocket park at the intersection of Main Street and Ashland Street. The park features a plaque recognizing the construction of the Hoosic Tunnel, benches, and landscaping. The park is somewhat accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking available on the property. There is accessible to street parking nearby and the sidewalks are accessible to provide access to the park.



The pocket park features a monument and benches.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The monument is accessible by the sidewalk. The benches are not on an accessible path in compliance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1. The city could extend the sidewalk into the park and place the benches on a firm surface to improve accessibility.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public toilets on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Beaver Street Park

Beaver Street Park is a small neighborhood park. It features a basketball Court, soccer field, and some playground equipment. It is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site. The ADA only requires accessible parking if provided.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible paths connecting the elements at the park in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1. The playground must be on an accessible route in accordance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7.



There are no accessible paths to the park elements.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Brayton Hill Park

Brayton Hill Park is a small family friendly park that has a baseball field, basketball courts, a wall-ball court, and playground equipment. It is mostly accessible.

Despite being mostly accessible as a park itself, there is not an accessible connection between the park and nearby school. The topography, however, makes building an accessible pedestrian route from the school to the park likely infeasible. Further, the city's plans to renovate schools will change the future use of the building and any connectivity decisions should coincide with the needs and desires of future tenants.



Brayton Hill Park is mostly accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are four accessible parking spaces, two located at the baseball field and two located near the play equipment and basketball court.

However, the signage is too low to the ground and does not include designated van accessible spaces. Parking signs should be 60 inches above the ground in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR Section 23.6

The four spaces are sufficient. However, none of the spaces are designed as van accessible in accordance with 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2. One space must be identified as van accessible and have compliant markings.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible path of travel from the parking area to the basketball and wall-ball courts, benches, and trash receptacles. There is also an accessible path of travel leading visitors to a viewing area across the street, offering views of the Hoosic River.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Camp Decker

Camp Decker is an undeveloped property reserved for hiking and natural enjoyment. It is not accessible because there has not been any development.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The property is not developed and has no accessibility components.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



Camp Decker is undeveloped.



## Cascade Falls

The Cascades, a roughly 85-acre park featuring hiking trails and a 45-foot waterfall, is a popular recreation site for locals and tourists. The park is undeveloped and does not include accessibility components.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site. Visitors should park in the YMCA parking lot, where a path through the woods leads to the trailhead on Marion Avenue.



The city has not undertaken accessibility upgrades at the park.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The city has not implemented any accessibility features into the trail.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Colegrove Park

Colegrove Park is a small, downtown park featuring open space and a performance area. The park is located next to Colegrove Elementary School. The park is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking on site. Access to the park for pedestrians either requires walking up a small set of stairs or through an accessible path. The path, however, ends shortly after entering the park.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The park is an open lawn. The city does host music events during the year.

There is no accessible path to seating areas, including benches located inside the property. 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1 require accessible routes to the elements within the boundaries of the park.

There is a walkway inside the park. The walkway has a slope of approximately 10.5% which exceeds the 5% maximum for an accessible route in 402.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms available on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



Colegrove Park is an open lawn. It is not accessible.



The walkway in the park provides an elevated view of the grassy area but there is no route to access it and it has a slope that exceeds standards.



## Disanti Playing Fields

Located on Curran Highway, the Disanti Playing Fields offer a soccer field and a baseball diamond used by local athletic teams. It is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is a firm, asphalt parking area with two signs identifying accessible parking. The parking spaces do not have any lines to define the spaces. 521 CMR 23.4.5 require cities to mark spaces with high contrast paint. The ADA requires in 503.3.3. that van accessible spaces have aisle markings to dissuade people from parking in those spaces.



The spaces are not marked.

The accessible parking spaces at Disanti Fields should be clearly marked with high contrast colors and be delineated at a minimum of eight feet wide, plus and access aisle. 521 CMR 23.4.6 (e) requires aisles to be painted with diagonal lines.

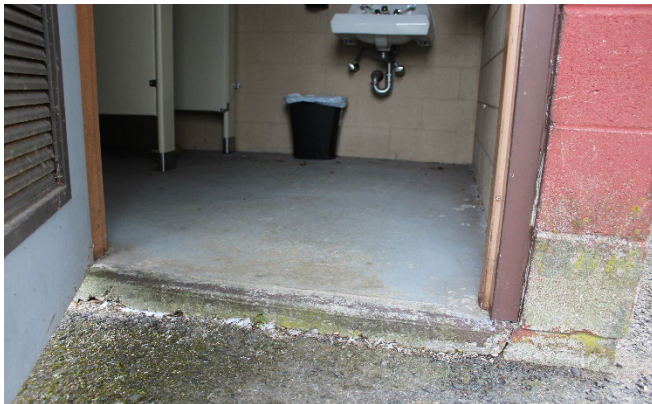
### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Elements such as spectator seating, playing fields, and concession counter are not located on an accessible path in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

There is a path of travel to the toilet rooms, however the path is older and could use repairs to mitigate future changes in level greater than ¼ inch.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two restrooms available at the soccer field. Neither restroom is accessible.



The restrooms are not accessible.

The signs do not comply with 703 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.00, which requires signs are tactile.

The entrance of the toilet rooms have a change in level above ¼" which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

The water supply and drainage pipes are not insulated or guarded, which does not comply with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5.

The hand dryer extends greater than 4" into the circulation path to the toilet, which is out of compliance with 307.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.6.1. Objects between 27" and 80" off the ground are not detectable by a cane and cannot extend more than 4" from the wall.

A coat hanger is provided but it is 52" high, which is not in compliance with 308.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards. 521 CMR provides a greater allowance for coat hangers.

The flush controls in the northern bathroom is located on the incorrect side. 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5 require flush controls to be located on the open side of the water closet.



The hand dryer imposes on the path of travel to the sink.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements in the park that fall under Priority 4.

## Drury High School Playing Fields

There is a track and football located on the Drury High School campus. The athletic facilities are not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The parking is located at the school but there is a long and steep road from those spaces to the field and track. There is no accessible path to the space in accordance with 206.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.

The road is too steep to comply with 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.



The track is not accessible.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

One at the athletic fields, any goods and services are accessible.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the fields the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Freeman Park

Freeman Park is located at the intersection of Hospital Avenue and Eagle Street. It features a baseball field, basketball court, and a playground.

The park is mostly accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site. The ADA requires parking only where provided.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible route from the sidewalk to the playground and to the basketball court. There is no accessible route to the baseball field as required by 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.1.2. The playground must be on an accessible route in accordance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7.

A wooden barrier to the playground does not provide access from the accessible route to the elements. The barrier creates a change in level above ¼" which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4. The city could cut a path to the playground and install a transition ramp to improve accessibility.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



Freeman Park is mostly inaccessible.



## Greylock Elementary School Playground

Greylock Elementary School is slated for demolition and a new school will be constructed on site. The current playground area is not accessible for multiple reasons. Any new playground areas developed as part of the new project must meet accessibility codes and guidelines.

The park is not accessible in its current state but the renovation project will ultimately remove the park elements.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are accessible parking spaces at the school, but the spaces are not appropriately signed in accordance with



The playground is not accessible.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible paths to any of the park elements in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.1.2. The playground must be on an accessible route in accordance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7.

The playground surfaces do not meet ASTM F 1951 standards, which the ADA requires under 1008.2.6.1.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

The toilet rooms on the property have no accessibility features. The bathrooms would require full renovation.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



## Houghton Park

Houghton Park is a small neighborhood park located near Cleveland Street. It features a basketball court and a swing set. It is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There are no accessible paths connecting the elements at the park in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



Houghton Park is mostly inaccessible.

## Kemp Park

Kemp Park is a neighborhood park featuring a basketball court, baseball field, and playground. It is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site. There is a nearby parking lot but none of the spots are identified as accessible.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible path from the sidewalk to the playground. However, it does not connect with the playground. The walkway ends at a large drop which is a change in level above  $\frac{1}{4}$ " that exceeds the maximum established in 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1. Playgrounds must be located on an accessible route in accordance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7.

The city could increase accessibility by extending the ramp into the playground area. Additionally, there is an insufficient number of ground-level play components. 240.2.1.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards require a one-to-one ratio of ground-level and aerial play components in playgrounds for a playground of this size.

There is an accessible path from the roadway to the basketball court. There is no path to the baseball field in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms located on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



Kemp Park is a neighborhood park.

## Monitor Park

Consisting of approximately 700 square feet, Monitor Park hosts a plaque monument honoring the former North Adams Iron Company. The monument marks the location the company smelted the ore for plates used to build the Civil War ship "The Monitor."

The park is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided at the site. The nearest parking is located at City Hall. A person must then travel up a steep sidewalk to access the monument.



Monitor Park features a stone monument.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The monument is located along the sidewalk, which is too steep to be consider an accessible path under 402.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9. There is a brick path from the sidewalk to the monument, providing accessible access to it once a person gets there.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Noel Field Athletic Complex

The Noel Field Athletic Complex features a splashpad, walking track, skateboard park, and sports fields on approximately 25 acres of land on Curran Highway. The park includes Joe Wolfe Field, which hosts youth and college baseball games.

The city recently completed a renovation of much of the park, which included accessibility features. The park is now fully accessible.

### Priority 1 – Entrance and Approach

There are multiple parking lots to access the park. Each lot features sufficient accessible parking. There are two accessible spots near the splashpad, five to access Joe Wolfe Field, and one located near the skatepark.

However, the signage is too low to the ground and does not include designated van accessible spaces. The city should raise the signage so that the bottom of the sign is at least 60 inches above the ground in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR Section 23.6.

There are no spaces designated for vans. 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2. requires at least one space be accessible and appropriately signed as such.

There are accessible paths connecting the parking lot to the park elements and the gates are sufficiently wide enough.

The line painting is beginning to fade and should be repainted soon to ensure the spots are appropriately marked with high contrast paint to deter others from parking in those spaces or encroaching on the van loading and unloading areas.



There is sufficient parking available on site, but the lines are beginning to fade and will need to be repainted soon.



The signs measure at 50.5 inches above the ground, which is below ADA requirements.

The pavement in the parking lot and along the access route to Joe Wolfe Field are also beginning to crack and become unlevel. The city will soon have to repave to ensure a smooth surface in accordance with 302.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 29.1.

### Priority 2 - Access to Goods and Services

All park elements are connected with accessible pathways and access to the grandstand at Joe Wolfe Field is served by a compliant ramp. There is compliant stadium seating.



There is no accessibility issues related to access to goods and services.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

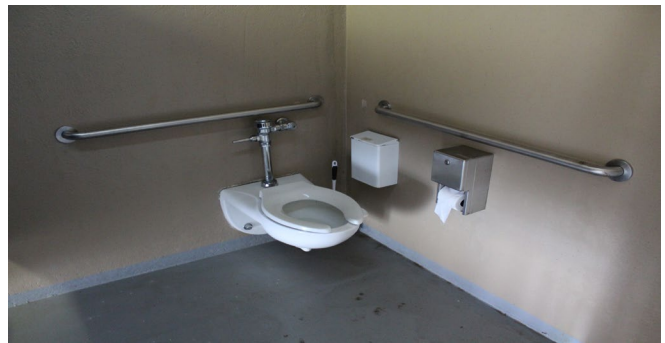
There are two toilet rooms located at Joe Wolf Field. Both are accessible. There are exposed water supply and drainage pipes under the sink, which does not comply with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4



The thresholds to the bathroom exceed 1/4".



The stalls in the restroom are accessible.



An accessible ramp provides access to the spectator seating.



There is an accessible path from the parking lot near the skate park.



## Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink

Originally constructed in the 1970s, the Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink serves as a recreational center for ice skating, private youth and adult hockey rinks, and other on-ice events. Notably, in partnership with the Massachusetts Office of Conservation and Recreation, the rink provides adaptive skating equipment and hosts adaptive skating events.

The facility is mostly accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are six accessible parking spaces on the property, including a van accessible space with sufficient space and aisle. There is an accessible route to the front entrance. The route is clear of obstruction.

A tactile pad on the curb cut at the drop-off area in front of the building is exposed and creates a change in level above ¼" which exceeds 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.1. A repaving project at the facility should address the transition's compliance.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Upon entering the building there are two service counters providing visitors with services. One is accessible while the other has a height of 42", which exceeds the 38" maximum for counters detailed in 904.3.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 7.4.3. Given that there is a compliant service counter available the city has no obligation to lower the non-compliant counter. However, it could lower the counter to create a secondary accessible counter to provide services during busy times.



The tactile transition is exposed and there is not a smooth pathway to the front entrance.



The skating rink provides visitors with adaptive skating opportunities.

The lobby area has rubber material covering the floor to prevent skates from damaging the floor. An additional mat is placed on the more highly trafficked area closest to the rink. The additional mat creates a change in level that exceeds the ¼" maximum outlined in 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 29.2. In replacing the rubber covering, the city should ensure the mats are at an even height throughout.

The northern entrance of the rink area has a water fountain that protrudes into the pathway. Objects between 27" and 80" off the ground are not detectable by a cane and cannot extend more than 4" from the wall. The city should place something

under the water fountain that is detectable by a cane or recess the fountain into the wall during any future renovations.

Entering the rink requires one to travel through swinging doors, which are accessible. Inside the rink area is a large skating area surrounded by boards and spectator seating. There is an accessible spectator seating area.

The property also includes locker rooms that are not accessible because the doorways are smaller than 32" wide in accordance with 404.2.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.5. The structure of the area makes any physical improvements to the space difficult.



The pipes underneath the bathroom sinks are exposed.

### **Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms**

There are two public restrooms available. Both are mostly accessible. The supply and drainage piping under the sinks are uncovered which is not in compliance with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5. The pipes should be insulated or guarded.

The doors to the restrooms require approximately 12 lbs. of pressure to open, which exceeds the 5 lb. limit detailed in 404.2.9 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1 (b). The city can adjust the closers to alleviate the pressure.

The flush controls in the accessible stall in the men's room is incorrectly located. The flush controls should be located on the wide side of the water closer in accordance with 604.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5.

### **Priority 4 – Additional Access**

The water fountain, while previously noted as being a protruding object because of its location, is accessible.

## River Grove Park

River Grove Park is a large park located near downtown North Adams and adjacent to the Porches Inn. The park offers an expansive lawn, benches, two playground equipment areas for younger and older children, and a short - but accessible walking path.

The park includes many accessible features.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is an adequate number of accessible parking spaces, including one van accessible space.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible path throughout the property that leads visitors to the playground equipment areas and trash receptacle.

However, a raised barrier around each of the playground equipment areas deems the play areas inaccessible. There is a ramp at each of the playground entrances, however, the ramp has a significant drop into the playground that exceeds the change in level standards in 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

The playground does not have a sufficient number of ground-level components in accordance with 240.2.1.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

There is also a dog park, located at the back of the park, however it is not located on an accessible path in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1. Additionally, the fence for the dog park cuts off the accessible walking route around the park.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



River Grove Park has many components to enhance accessibility.

## Riverside Park

Riverside Park is a small, open parcel located along the Hoosic River. The park features a community garden and a bench. The park is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site. Pedestrians can access the property from the sidewalk but there is no pathway from the sidewalk into the park in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.



The park is not accessible.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no accessible route to the park elements in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



## River Street Playground

River Street Playground is a small neighborhood park nestled on the corner of Rover Street and Tyler Street. It features a half basketball Court, and swings. It is not accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no accessible path throughout the property in accordance with 306.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.1.2.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



There are no accessible elements at the park.



## Senior Center Park

A small parklet next to the senior center offers a place for pedestrians to rest on benches and provides a pathway to the senior center. The park is accessible but does not have any features.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking available on site. The ADA only requires accessible parking when provided. The nearest accessible public parking is on the senior center property.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible path through the park. There are no other elements in the park.

The path to enter the senior center, however, has a slope that exceeds the 5% maximum established by 402.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms provided on site.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The park is small and serves as a pedestrian route to the senior center.

## State Street Park

State Street Park is a small park located next to the Hoosic River, equipped with two benches, a gazebo, garden space.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The elements are not located on an accessible path as required by 206.2.2. of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1. The pathway through the park does not connect to the elements.



The small park offers visitors a place to rest and picnic.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.

## Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park is located in the city's downtown. It is accessible.

### Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided on site.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is an accessible path throughout the property.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no toilet rooms on the property.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



Veterans Memorial Park is downtown.

## Windsor Lake/Historic Valley Campground

Windsor Lake and Historic Valley Campground are publicly owned properties. Windsor Lake is overseen and managed by a commission while the city's Parks and Recreation manage the campground.

The property is not accessible because of a lack of accessible paths.

The Commission on Disabilities has already begun discussion with city administrators about creating an accessible pathway to the beach. The city should prioritize renovating the restrooms, providing an accessible pathway to the beach, and installing a mat or other surface to provide access to the water. The city should begin designing the future improvements and seek funding opportunities for construction in the coming years.

### Priority 1 – Entrance and Approach

There are four accessible parking spaces, all located at the nearest entrance to the property.

The four spaces are sufficient. However, none of the spaces are designed as van accessible in accordance with 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2.

### Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Visitors enter the park through either the accessible route to the playground or through open space. The majority of the park elements are not on an accessible route in accordance with 206.2.2 and 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1 and 19.7.

The beach could also be made more accessible by providing a firm surface to access the water or providing a beach wheelchair.

There are two playgrounds on the property, one located on the Windsor Lake side and one at Historic Valley Campground.



Historic Valley Campground is located along Windsor Lake.



An accessible path provides access from the parking lot to the playground.



None of the grills are located on an accessible route.



Both are somewhat accessible. The playgrounds at the campground have an accessible ramp into the playground area but do not have an accessible path from the roadway to the ramp in accordance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7. The playground near the parking lot at Windsor Lake is not accessible in accordance with Section 240 of the 2010 ADA Standards and should be replaced.

There is also a bathhouse located at Historic Valley Campground which is located in an inaccessible area. The pathway to the building is through a trail. The trail has an easy enough slope to eventually build an accessible pathway and/or provide parking near the building to increase accessibility. The bathhouse can be driven to but there is no dedicated accessible parking and the ground is not firm and slip resistant.

There is an office at the Historic Valley Campground. The office has a ramp providing access. However, there are no railing. A ramp can have a pitch of up to 8.3% but requires railings in accordance with 405 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 24. If the slope is 5% or less, a railing is not required.

The office door features a knob, which is not in compliance with 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.11.1. Door hardware needs to operate without tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist.

### Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two restrooms in a building on the Windsor Lake side of the property and two facilities, with a total of five bathrooms, at the campground.



Windsor Lake provides visitors with an array of outdoor opportunities.



The city could improve accessibility at the beach by installing a firm surface, such as a Mobi-Mat, or providing access to beach wheelchairs.

The two facilities located near the parking lot at Windsor Lake are not accessible. To access the restrooms require someone to traverse a change in level above ¼" at the door's threshold, which is not in compliance with 404.2.5 and 26.10.1.

The supply and drainage pipes are not covered in accordance with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5.

In the women's room, there is no handle on the stall door which is not in compliance 604.8.1.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.6.1.



There are two buildings at the campground with toilet rooms. Two in each building are not accessible. There is one accessible stall located in the rear of one of the two facilities. There is no signage directing people to the accessible stall, which is required when not all restroom facilities are compliant with 206.8 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.1.3 (d).

To access the restrooms there is a change in level above  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 22.4.

The paved pathway to the accessible restroom is too steep. Restrooms must be on an accessible route and 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9 limit the slope to 5% (or 1:20).

The supply and drainage pipes are not covered in accordance with 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5.

The pathway to the sink in the accessible room is too narrow because a paper towel dispenser infringes on the path to it. 307.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.6.1, which limits the anything between 27" and 80" off the ground from protruding into a walkway more than 4".

Additionally, the dispenser narrows the path to less than 36", which is the narrowest a route can be in 403.5.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.3.

### Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the park that the Department of Justice considers under Priority 4.



The pathway from the road to the accessible restroom does not have the appropriate grade.



Door knobs are not in compliance with the 2010 ADA Standards.

# Evaluation of Online Assets

The city of North Adam's has several online assets including webpages and social media platforms for the following municipal entities:

1. North Adams City Hall
2. North Adams Public Library
3. North Adams Public Schools
4. North Adams Housing Authority
5. Discover North Adams

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission conducted a survey among City Hall department heads to gather information about content creation, training, and policies regarding web content accessibility. Survey results suggest the city should consider implementing annual training courses related to accessible web content among all departments since web content creation is often a shared responsibility among multiple staff members. Furthermore, the city should create a standard operating procedure to be shared among department heads to ensure any online content meets WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards before it is published to any of the city's online assets.

To assess North Adams five online assets BRPC staff utilized SortSite Accessibility Checker. An online platform that complies with WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards and is regularly used by Disability Access Consultants - one of the nation's largest consulting firms specializing in accessibility compliance.

Automated testing cannot detect all accessibility issues, therefore it should be used alongside human testing.

Further human testing and analysis was conducted on the social media platforms of the above online assets and found that posts on city-affiliated social media platforms do not meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards. Some of the issues found include images lacking alt text, and videos do not have closed captioning. Employees responsible for posting content to municipal social media platforms should be aware of the Meta's accessibility features and WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards.

*BRPC is providing the city copies of the detailed scans it can share with its web developers.*

# North Adams City Hall

Web content updates and changes are typically managed by different departments, which often leads to delays and inefficiencies in content that is posted. The city's website lacks digitized records and uploaded documents and pdfs are often not accessible. Currently, there is no formal policy in place for city staff to follow to ensure web content meets accessibility standards.

The city uses third party vendors Revize to create and publish their website, as well as using a different third-party vendor, DigiCert, for online bill paying. On the home screen of the payment portal there is a statement to residents indicating if they need any assistance with online payments to contact the Treasurer's Office, listing a phone number and email. The city should reach out to Revize to ensure their website is ADA compliant and complies with WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards.

Total 3 pages scanned through SortSite	
Level A	Level AA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Images lack alternative text.</li> <li>• Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose.</li> <li>• Links must have an accessible name</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uploaded documents are not readable with assistive technologies.</li> <li>• Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast.</li> <li>• Screen Reader and Assistive Technology issues               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ensures &lt;li&gt; elements are used semantically.</li> <li>◦ Ensure ARIA Roles Are Correctly Applied.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## North Adams Public Library

The North Adams Public Library is managed by library staff and does not feature an accessibility statement or accessibility widget. Staff should ensure that all materials including pdfs, calendars and images include alt text allowing easy navigation for patrons using assistive technologies.

Total 518 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A – 8 issues on 42 pages	Level AA – 2 issues on 9 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headings should not be empty.</li> <li>Identify row and column headers in data tables using the elements, and mark layout tables with role=presentation.</li> <li>iframe and frame elements must have a title attribute.</li> <li>Indicating links using only a text color change does not work for color-blind users.</li> <li>Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose.</li> <li>Links must have an accessible name.</li> <li>Several links on a page share the same link text and surrounding context but go to different destinations.</li> <li>Use semantic markup like strong instead of using the CSS font-weight property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot use aria-label or aria-labeled on elements and roles that prohibit naming.</li> <li>Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast.</li> </ul>

## North Adams Public Schools

The North Adams Public School website is powered by Appetgy, a web publishing platform that provides custom websites for school districts, municipalities, and other various government organizations. The NA Public Schools website does provide a phone number for patrons to contact if they need anything. Furthermore, an accessibility statement is provided, however it does not have contact information for the Title IX compliance officer.

*If someone has a complaint or feels that they have been discriminated against because of their age, race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness, their complaint should be registered with the Title IX compliance officer.*

North Adams Public Schools should work with Appetgy to ensure their website is ADA compliant meeting WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards.

Total 527 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A – 8 issues on 26 pages	Level AA – 2 issues on 337 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>alt text should not contain placeholders like 'picture' or 'spacer'.</li> <li>Elements with role=feed must contain or own an element with role=article and must not contain elements with other roles.</li> <li>Headings should not be empty.</li> <li>iframe and frame elements must have a title attribute.</li> <li>img elements must have an accessible name.</li> <li>Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose.</li> <li>Links must have an accessible name.</li> <li>Several links on a page share the same link text and surrounding context but go to different destinations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast.</li> <li>If you set any of the colors on the <i>body</i> or <i>a</i> elements you must set all of them.</li> </ul>



## North Adams Housing Authority

The North Adams Housing Authority website is managed by staff and has a telephone number and online form residents can utilize to contact staff. The housing authority staff should ensure all forms and pdfs linked to the site include alt text and are accessible.

Total 505 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A – 13 issues on 29 pages	Level AA – 2 issues on 185 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clickable controls should be keyboard accessible.</li> <li>• Clickable controls should have an ARIA role.</li> <li>• Document title must not be blank.</li> <li>• Don't use CSS animations that run for more than 5 seconds without giving the user a way to turn them off.</li> <li>• Figures and images in PDF documents should have non blank ALT text, except for decorative images which should be marked as artifacts.</li> <li>• Headings should not be empty.</li> <li>• HTML form control has no accessible name.</li> <li>• Identify row and column headers in data tables using <i>th</i> elements, and mark layout tables with role=presentation.</li> <li>• Links must have an accessible name.</li> <li>• PDFs must be tagged to be accessible by screen readers.</li> <li>• Several links on a page share the same link text and surrounding context but go to different destinations.</li> <li>• The label element is blank.</li> <li>• Use the lang attribute to identify the language of the page.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot use aria-label or aria-labelledby on elements and roles that prohibit naming.</li> <li>• Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast.</li> </ul>

## Discover Noth Adams

Discover North Adams is the tourism and community events resource for the City of North Adams and is managed by the Community Events and Tourism department within the City of North Adams Mayors Office. The Community Events and Tourism department should ensure that the events calendar is accessible including making sure all images include alternative text.

Total 527 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A – 5 issues on 28 pages	Level AA – 2 issues on 2 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headings should not be empty.</li> <li>Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose.</li> <li>Links must have an accessible name.</li> <li>Several links on a page share the same link text and surrounding context but go to different destinations.</li> <li>The role attribute must not be used on <i>td</i>, <i>th</i> and <i>tr</i> elements inside a table element with no role or role=table, role=grid or role=treegrid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cannot use aria-label or aria-labelledby on elements and roles that prohibit naming.</li> <li>Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast.</li> </ul>

## Recommendations to Achieve Online Accessibility:

- Install accessibility software/widgets on all municipal websites
- Install and utilize accessibility features and guidelines on social media platforms.
  - Review third-party social media terms, conditions and limitations for accessibility compliance when determining whether to use the platform.
- Ensure city staff and departments who are posting on social media or updating webpages take part in annual web accessibility training and are aware of guidelines.
- Dedicate a staff member to evaluate and correct accessibility errors on the city's website and regularly review online assets for compliance.
- Develop procedures to maintain the accessibility of the city's website, including online documents and provide training to staff.
- If the accessibility and maintenance of the city's website is contracted to an outside vendor, contractual language should be included regarding the website accessibility requirements and that the responsibility for the development of and maintenance of an accessible website.
- Before linking to content that was created by a third party, test the content for accessibility, such as videos that start automatically, missing alternative text for photos and available captioning. If the content is not fully accessible, but the entity choosing to link the content regardless, a disclaimer should be added that explains the limitations for the linked content to the user
- Regularly enlist people with a variety of disabilities (Commission on Disability) to test the city's online assets for accessibility and ease of use.

Resources to Achieve Online Accessibility	
US Department of Justice - State and Local Governments: First Steps Toward Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Web and Mobile Application Accessibility Rule	<a href="https://www.ada.gov/resources/web-rule-first-steps/">https://www.ada.gov/resources/web-rule-first-steps/</a>
The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) - WCAG 2.1 Level AA Online Accessibility Standards	<a href="https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/">https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/</a>
Massachusetts Office on Disability - Understanding Web Accessibility	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQyZS2CZN4E&amp;t=3167s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQyZS2CZN4E&amp;t=3167s</a>
Massachusetts Office on Disability - Accessibility Guidance for State Government Agencies	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/accessibility-guidance-for-state-government-agencies">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/accessibility-guidance-for-state-government-agencies</a>
Massachusetts Office on Disability - Creating Accessible Digital Documents	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU8W69okZ70&amp;list=PLsiz0GxiqA2f88B5u9B6uqHDsP3ArEYgK">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU8W69okZ70&amp;list=PLsiz0GxiqA2f88B5u9B6uqHDsP3ArEYgK</a>
Civic Plus - Best Practices for Meeting Accessibility Guidelines	<a href="https://www.civicplus.com/blog/wa/complete-guide-building-ada-compliant-municipal-websites/">https://www.civicplus.com/blog/wa/complete-guide-building-ada-compliant-municipal-websites/</a>
Civic Plus - Municipal Website Redesign	<a href="https://www.civicplus.com/tool-kits/ce/wpt/">https://www.civicplus.com/tool-kits/ce/wpt/</a>
Facebook and Instagram Accessibility	<p>Facebook - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/help/273947702950567?helpref=hc_fnay">https://www.facebook.com/help/273947702950567?helpref=hc_fnay</a></p> <p>Instagram - <a href="https://help.instagram.com/308605337351503">https://help.instagram.com/308605337351503</a></p> <p>Helpful Tips and Tricks for Accessibility on Instagram - <a href="https://about.instagram.com/blog/tips-and-tricks/advancing-accessibility-on-instagram">https://about.instagram.com/blog/tips-and-tricks/advancing-accessibility-on-instagram</a></p>
Accessibility Widgets	<p>UserWay Widget - <a href="https://userway.org/">https://userway.org/</a></p> <p>AudioEye - <a href="https://www.audioeye.com/">https://www.audioeye.com/</a></p>
Civic Plus - Website Accessibility Scan	<a href="https://www.civicplus.com/web-accessibility-software/get-a-scan/">https://www.civicplus.com/web-accessibility-software/get-a-scan/</a>
SortSite - Website Accessibility Scan	<a href="https://www.powermapper.com/products/sortsit/">https://www.powermapper.com/products/sortsit/</a>



# Evaluation of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission examined the sidewalks and crosswalks along the path connecting City Hall with the Library to the Senior Center.

The evaluation focused on inventorying and identifying accessibility barriers including excessive slopes and cross slopes, the condition of curb ramps, and the condition of the pedestrian pathways. The evaluation also included identifying the presence of audible and vibrotactile walk indicators for pedestrian signal heads, and detectable warning surfaces at crosswalks as defined in the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines.



Sidewalks providing access to goods and services should be in compliance with accessibility guidelines.

## Curb Ramps

Title II of the ADA addresses sidewalks and street construction. The Department of Justice requires cities to provide curb ramps when constructing new sidewalks or altering streets wherever a pedestrian walkway crosses a curb or other barrier. A curb ramp may be perpendicular to the curb it cuts or parallel with the sidewalk. Other designs may also comply, including sidewalks that ramp down to a lesser curb height, with a short perpendicular curb ramp to the street, blended at or at-grade connections, or raising crossings that connect at sidewalk level.



Curb ramps must meet specifications.

The running slope of a new curb ramp should not exceed 8.3%. Ramps steeper than 8.3% may not be usable for pedestrians in wheelchairs or scooters. Cross slopes are limited to 2%. The top of a curb ramp must have a level landing that is at least 48" deep. The side flares of a curb ramp are not intended for pedestrian travel but must meet certain specifications to eliminate tripping hazards. The foot of the curb ramp should be contained within the crosswalk markings. Pedestrians who use wheelchairs should not be directed outside of the crosswalk or into an active travel lane in order to cross traffic. If a diagonal ramp is used, a 48" bottom landing between the curb radius and curb line extensions.

The boundary between the sidewalk and the street should be detectable underfoot. A 24-inch strip of truncated dome material should be provided at the full width of the ramp or other uncurbed connection to the crosswalk to warn pedestrians.

## Sidewalks

A new sidewalk should be wider than the minimum accessible travel width of 36 inches (915 mm).

Additional maneuvering space is necessary for a pedestrian using a wheelchair to turn, to pass by other pedestrians, to operate and pass through an entrance door, to use a sidewalk telephone or to activate a pedestrian crossing button. A 60-inch (1525-mm) minimum width can accommodate turns and passing space and is recommended for sidewalks adjacent to curbs in order to provide travel width away from the drop-off at street edge; a 48-inch width can accommodate side-by-side travel with a service animal.

The cross slope of a sidewalk should not exceed 1:48 (2%). Excessive cross slope requires additional energy to counteract and tends to direct wheelchair users into the street, particularly when it is wet, icy, or snowy underfoot. At driveways there should be a minimum 36-inch passage with a cross slope of no more than 1:48 (2%). Corners at intersections should be in both directions since the running slope of one walkway will be the cross slope of another.



Sidewalks should be free of tripping hazards. Changes in level cannot exceed ¼".

## Street Furniture

Street furniture, plantings, and other fixed items should not protrude into travel routes. Pedestrians with vision impairments can detect objects mounted on walls or posts if they are installed so that the leading edge is less than 27 inches (685 mm) above the sidewalk. Items mounted above this height should not project more than 4 inches (100 mm) into any circulation route. Care should be taken to locate temporary



Street furniture should be located on the ground, as shown above, or less than 27" off the ground to be detectable by a cane.

signage so that it does not impede pedestrian travel.

## Travel Routes

The audible and vibrotactile information delivered at the pedestrian button of an accessible pedestrian signal (APS) can identify pedestrian signal phases and provide other nonvisual information about the nature of a crossing.

Insufficient crossing time may be a barrier for some pedestrians. Every pedestrian cohort should be expected to contain some walkers whose rate of

travel is less than 3.5 feet per second. Some jurisdictions add additional time using video technology; others employ a pedbutton to call for a longer crossing cycle.

Temporary work should be accessible. Where construction blocks a public sidewalk for more than a short time, an alternate accessible route should be provided that is cane detectable. Sidewalk barriers should be continuous and cane detectable as well. Temporary events and facilities should also meet accessibility criteria.

Pedestrian facilities on and along sidewalks must be accessible. Signal actuating buttons, drinking fountains, telephones, kiosks, and other pedestrian elements should meet accessibility criteria for approach and maneuvering space, reach range, and operation.

## Downtown North Adams

Overall, the sidewalks and crosswalks in downtown North Adams are in good condition and present limited accessibility barriers. The city conducts ongoing maintenance to prevent deterioration that creates barriers.

The city has several crosswalks in its downtown but none of them feature audio and vibrotactile signals. The city should identify priority crosswalks for improvements and install audio and vibrotactile crosswalk signals where appropriate.



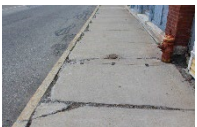





The table below identifies areas of deterioration in the sidewalks and provides an inventory of infrastructure located at various crosswalks. The city should prioritize making pedestrian improvements in its downtown and its connectivity with City Hall, the Library, and the Senior Center.








The crosswalks are numbered to coincide with the table below.

### North Adams Downtown Sidewalk Evaluation

Street	From Street	To Street	Barriers	Photo
Main	Marshal	Holden	Cross slope exceeds	
Main	Holden	Eagle	Excessive cross slopes Sidewalk cracks	
Eagle	Main	River	Excessive slope near intersection with Canal Sidewalk cracks	
Main	Eagle	Church	Excessive slope	
Church	Main	Accessible library entrance	Excessive slope to enter library	
Church	Library	Arnold Place	Excessive cross slope	
Spring	Church	Chestnut	Overgrowth narrows sidewalk	
Spring	Chestnut	Washington Avenue	Excessive Slope Needs new curb cut	






## Evaluation of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

Ashland	American Legion Drive	Main	Sidewalk cracks	
Ashland	American Legion Drive	Main	Excessive slope and cross slope	
Main	Ashland	American Legion Drive	Tripping hazard near bus stop	




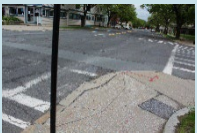

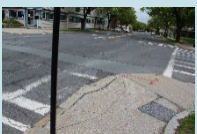
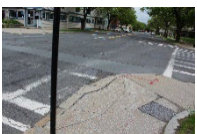



### North Adams Downtown Crosswalk Evaluation

Crosswalk	Detectable Surface	Curb Ramp	Audible and Vibrotactile Signals	Photo
1	Yes on sides, no in middle island	Yes	No	
2	Worn  Drainage is tripping hazard	Yes	No	
3	Worn	Yes	No	
4	Worn	Yes	No	
5	No	Yes	No	
6	No	Yes	No	
7	No	Yes	No	
8	No	Yes	No	








## Evaluation of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

9	No	Yes	No	
10	No	Yes	No	
11	No	Need repair	No	
12	No	Needs repair	No	
13	No	Not compliant	No	
14	Yes	Yes	No	
15	Yes	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
16	Yes	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
17	Yes	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
18	Yes	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	

## Evaluation of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

19	No	Yes	No	
20	No	Yes	No	
21	No	Yes	No	
22	No	Yes	No	
23	No	Yes	No	
24	No	Yes	No	
25	No	Yes	No	
26	Worn	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
27	Worn	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
28	Yes	Yes	No	

## Evaluation of Sidewalks and Curb Ramps

29	Yes	Yes	No	
30	Worn	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
31	Worn	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrtactile	
32	Worn	Yes	No	
33	No	Yes	No	
34	Worn	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrotactile	
35	Worn	Yes	Signal yes but not audio or vibrotactile	



# Transition Plan

North Adams should build accessibility upgrades into its Capital Improvement Plan. Several of the items are lower cost and the city has staff in house to address those in the near future. Others require larger investments and will be funding dependent and/or require engineering and design work. City officials may need to adjust timelines to complement funding opportunities. The following plan serves as a guide to making investments based on priorities identified by the Commission on Disabilities and city officials.

North Adams is generally accessible based on current standards and by enacting this Transition Plan, the city will not only achieve the minimum standards of the ADA but increase accessibility above and beyond those standards to serve the community's needs better.


The Transition Plan is based on five years and it is impractical to anticipate that the city will be able to eliminate every barrier at once. The Department of Justice encourages cities to update the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan every three years. The next update will provide the city with an opportunity to reflect on its accomplishments and re-prioritize improvements that are currently lower priority.




The plan prioritizes City Hall because the majority of the business and services are conducted inside that building.






Among parks, the plan seeks to prioritize parks with current accessibility features, are geographically located in different areas of the city, and offer the greatest diversity of outdoor experiences. The Transition Plan also sets forth ambitious goals for the city to undertake larger capital improvement projects at Windsor Lake, Alcombright Field, and Noel Athletic Complex to greatly improve those well-utilized spaces.

## Policy and Public Buildings





Location	Barrier	Photo	2010 Standard	MAAB Standard	Solution	Responsibility	Timeframe
Policy	No city-wide ADA Policy outlining accommodation requests and effective communication	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adopt a city-wide ADA Policy	Community Development	FY26
Policy	Lack of WCAG knowledge among staff	N/A	WCAG 2.1	N/A	Develop content policy to ensure WCAG compliance	Administration	FY26
Procedures	ADA requires ongoing oversight	N/A	DOJ Recommendation	N/A	Update ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan	Community Development	FY29
Procedures	Some departments have not taken trainings related to ADA	N/A	N/A	N/A	Provide employees training opportunities with the Massachusetts Office on Disability or the New England ADA Center	Administration	FY26

Procedures	Lack of assistive technology available throughout city departments	N/A	N/A	N/A	Strengthen connection with Library to ensure residents and department heads know where to borrow assistive technology, develop efficient process to make it available, and identify specific needs and seek opportunities to purchase equipment	Administration	FY26
Procedures	No program to assist people with disabilities in clearing sidewalks from snow and ice	N/A	N/A	MOD Recommended Best Practice	Develop program to assist people with disabilities clear ice and snow from sidewalks	Administration	FY26
Sidewalks and Crosswalks	No audio or vibrotactile crosswalk signals		PROWAG	N/A	Install audio and vibrotactile signals	Highway Department/Community Development	Ongoing






Armory	Accessible parking signs are below standards		502.6	23.6.4	Raise parking signs to 60" minimum off the ground floor	Highway Department	FY26
Armory	Thresholds throughout the hallway are not compliant because they exceed 1/4" maximum change in level		303.3	20.10	Install new thresholds	Building Department	FY27
Armory	There are heating system control boxes and an automated external defibrillator that are protruding into the walkways		307.2	20.6.1	Install a platform under protruding objects for someone with a cane to detect	Building Department	FY26
Armory	Doorknob hardware to enter the adult education center is not compliant		309.4	26.11.1	Replace doorknob hardware	Building Department	FY26
Armory	Interior room signs are not compliant		216.2	41.1.1	Install compliant interior room signs	Building Department	FY26

Armory	The men's bathroom does not have 18" of clear floor space to the latch side of the doorway		703.4.2	41.2.1	Relocate objects infringing on the required space	Building Department	Beyond FY30
Armory	The men's bathroom door is too heavy, requiring 10lbs. of pressure to open		404.2.9	26.8.1 (b)	Adjust door hinges to reduce opening pressure to at least 5 lbs.	Building Department	FY26
City Hall	One of the accessible parking spaces lacks aisle access.		502.3	23.4.6	Outline and paint a 5' aisle that connects the parking space to an accessible route into the building	Highway Department	FY26
City Hall	Sidewalk's deterioration created changes in levels beyond 1/2"		303.2	26.10.1	Plan for sidewalk repairs	Building Department	Design FY26 Repair FY27
City Hall	The threshold at the front entrance has a change in level beyond 1/4"		303.2	26.10.1	Install new threshold	Building Department	FY26





City Hall	A bench outside of the Veterans' Services office		703.4.2	41.2.1	Move the bench to ensure 18" of clear floor space to the latch side of the doorway	Building Department	FY26
City Hall	The mounted external defibrillator is a protruding object		307.2	20.6.1	Recess the AED into the wall or install a platform under it for someone with a cane to detect	Building Department	FY26
City Hall	The elevator located in city hall is not compliant		407	28.00	Upgrade the elevator so it meets ADA and 521 CMR standards	Building Department	Design in FY27 Fund and Construction FY28
City Hall	The bathroom doors are too heavy		309.4	26.8.1	Adjust door hinges	Building Department	FY26
City Hall	The flush controls are on wrong side		604.6	39.5	Install automatic flushers	Building Department	FY27
City Hall	No wheelchair accessible stall located in City Hall		604.8.1.1	30.1 (a)	Configure bathrooms to create accessible stall	Building Department	FY27

City Hall	Sink pipes are not covered in bathrooms		606.5	30.9	Cover sink pipes under sink	Building Department	FY26
Department of Public Works	No accessible parking		502	23.00	Define the parking area to determine the number of accessible spaces required and appropriately install accessible parking	Highway Department	FY30
Department of Public Works	Bathrooms are not accessible		603	30.00	The restrooms need a complete overhaul to be compliant because there is insufficient space and no accessible features	Building Department	FY30
Fire Station	The building is not accessible		N/A	N/A	Design and build a new fire station that is fully ADA compliant	Community Development	Beyond FY30

Harriman and West Airport	The building is fully accessible		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	Replace the faded accessible parking sign located in the parking lot		502.6	23.0	The sign should be replaced and include language specifying that it is van accessible	Highway Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	Insufficient number of parking spaces		208.2	23.2.1	Create a second accessible parking space	Highway Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	At the connection between the accessible path into the building and the parking lot, the concrete is broken, creating a change in level beyond 1/4"		303.2	26.10.1	Repave the parking lot to even out the change in level	Highway Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	The automatic door closes in approximately 3.5 seconds – which is too fast		404.2.8.1	26.9	Adjust the closing speed to allow for adequate time for a person to enter or exit the building	Building Department	FY26

Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	The accessible path to the door is too steep		402.2	20.9	Regrade to a 5% slope or regrade to a 8.3% slope and install compliant handrails to make that entrance accessible	Building Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	The threshold at the front of the building has a change in level above ¼"		303.2	26.10.1	Repair the concrete at the entrance to ensure a smooth transition into the building	Building Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	There is no signage indicating where the accessible entrance is located		216.6	43.1.3 (c)	Install a sign indicating where the accessible entrance is located	Building Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	Permanent spaces are not appropriately signed		216.2	41.1.1	Install compliant signs	Building Department	FY26
Mary Spitzer Senior Cener	The amount of pressure required to open the door to the community room exceeds 5 lbs.		309.4	26.8.1	Adjust door closer or replace door	Building Department	FY26

## Parks and Open Spaces

Location	Barrier	Photo	2010 Standard	MAAB Standard	Solution	Responsibility	Timeframe
Procedures	No accessibility language in park request forms	N/A	N/A	N/A	Add ADA guidance to park request forms for private events	Community Development	FY26
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Accessible route does not extend to the soccer field and T-ball bathrooms		206.2.2	20.2	Design and construct spectator seating areas and connection path from sidewalk to new seating areas at T-ball field and soccer field and restrooms at T-ball field	Community Development	Design FY27 Construction FY28
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Accessible route to playground has drop in level		303.2 1008.2	22.4 19.7	Purchase and install transition from path to the playground	Community Development	FY26



# Transition Plan

Alcombright Athletic Fields	No accessible play equipment at the playground		240.2.1.2	N/A	Purchase and install new accessible equipment	Parks Department	FY27
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Flush controls in women's restroom on the wrong side		604.6	30.7.5	Install hands-free automatic flusher	Parks Department	FY27
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Supply and drainage pipes in all bathrooms are exposed		606.5	22.4	Insulate pipes	Parks Department	FY26
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Coat hangers too high		308.2.1	N/A	Lower coat hanger	Parks Department	FY26
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Threshold at entrance to the bathrooms near T-ball field are above 1/4" inch		404.2.5	26.10.1	Replace threshold	Parks Department	FY26
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Toilet paper dispenser is too far from the edge of the toilet in both bathrooms near the T-ball field		604.9.6	N/A	Move toilet paper dispenser	Parks Department	FY26

Alcombright Athletic Fields	Flush control in the toilet on the eastern side of the facility near the T-ball field is on the wrong side		604.6	30.7.5	Install hands-free automatic flush controls	Parks Department	FY27
Alcombright Athletic Fields	Door gets stuck closed		N/A	26.8.1	Find and fix what is causing the door to stick	Parks Department	FY26
Ashland Street Mini Park	Benches are not on a firm and slip resistant surface		206.2.2	20.2.1	Extend sidewalk into the park and underneath bench	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Beaver Street Playground	No accessible route to any park elements		206.2.2 1008.2	20.2.1 19.7	Install accessible route to the elements	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Brayton Hill Park	Parking signs are below 60" off the ground		502.6	23.6	Raise the height of the signs	Parks Department	FY26
Brayton Hill Park	No van accessible parking spaces		208.2.4	23.2.2	Designate one of the existing spaces as van accessible	Parks Department	FY26

## Transition Plan

Camp Decker	Undeveloped		N/A	N/A	Ensure any development is accessible	Community Development	When needed
Cascade Falls	Undeveloped		N/A	N/A	Ensure any development is accessible	Community Development	When needed
Colegrove Park	No accessible route to seating area and walkway is too steep No accessible route to the seating area		206.2.2 402.2	20.2.1 20.9	Redesign park with community vision for future use	Community Development	FY28
Colegrove Park	No accessible route to seating area and walkway is too steep No accessible route to the seating area		206.2.2 402.2	20.2.1 20.9	Build new Colegrove Park	Community Development	FY29
Disanti Playing Fields	Parking spaces are not marked with high contrast markings		N/A	23.4.5	Pave accessible spaces and line them appropriately	Parks Department	FY28

Disanti Playing Fields	No access aisle for van accessible space		502.3.3	23.4.6 (e)	Delineate access aisle	Parks Department	FY28
Disanti Playing Fields	Playing fields and concession counter are not located on accessible paths		206.2.2	20.2.1	Install accessible path to the elements	Parks Department	Beyond FY30
Disanti Playing Fields	Bathrooms need renovation		Multiple	Multiple	Design and renovate bathrooms	Community Development	Design FY30 Construction FY31
Disanti Playing Fields	Restrooms signs are not tactile		703	41	Install new signs	Parks Department	FY30
Disanti Playing Fields	Threshold to enter the toilet rooms are larger than 1/4"		404.2.5	26.10.1	Install transition into the restrooms	Parks Department	FY30
Disanti Playing Fields	Exposed supply and drainage pipes under sinks in bathrooms		606.5	30.9.5	Insulate pipes	Parks Department	FY30
Disanti Playing Fields	Hand dryer protrudes into walkway to the sink		307.2	20.6.1	Move hand dryer to another location	Parks Department	FY30

## Transition Plan







Disanti Playing Fields	Coat hanger is too high		308.2.1	N/A	Lower coat hook to a maximum of 48"	Parks Department	FY30
Disanti Playing Fields	Flush controls in northern bathroom is located on the wrong side		604.6	30.7.5	Install new flush control	Parks Department	FY30
Drury High School Playing Fields	No accessible route to the fields		206.2.1	20.2	Ensure transportation options are available for an accommodation during events	School Department	Ongoing
Freeman Playground	No accessible route to the baseball field		206.2.2	20.2.1	Extend accessible path to the baseball field	Parks Department	Beyond FY30
Freeman Playground	No path through the wooden barrier to the playground		303.2 1008.2	22.4 19.7	Install transition ramp into the playground	Parks Department	FY26
Greylock Elementary School Playground	No accessible elements		Multiple	Multiple	Proceed with planned renovation	Community Development	With school renovation project



## Transition Plan

Houghton Playground	No accessible path to the park elements		206.2.2 1008.2	20.1 19.7	Design and install accessible path to the park elements	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Kemp Park	Significant drop from accessible route into the playground		303.2 1008.2	22.4 19.7	Install transition ramp into the playground	Parks Department	FY26
Kemp Park	No accessible route to the baseball field		206.2.2	20.1	Design and install accessible path to the baseball field	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Kemp Park	Insufficient number of ground-level play components		240.2.1.2	N/A	Add ground-level components	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Monitor Park	Route from nearby parking to monument is steep		402.2	20.9	Consider adding parking at the monument in the future	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Noel Field Athletic Complex	Signs throughout property are too low		502.6	23.6	Raise signs to be at least 60" from the ground	Parks Department	FY26

Noel Field Athletic Complex	No van accessible spaces		208.2.4	23.2.2	Designate van accessible spaces in each parking lot and install appropriate signage	Parks Department	FY26
Noel Field Athletic Complex	Painted lines fading near Joe Wolfe Stadium, potentially losing high-contrast delineation in the near future		502.3.3	23.4.5	Repaint lines when resurfacing parking lot	Parks Department	With regular maintenance
Noel Field Athletic Complex	Pavement in Joe Wolfe Field starting to crack and become unlevel		302.1	29.1	Ensure smooth paving	Parks Department	With next resurfacing
Noel Field Athletic Complex	Joe Wolfe bathrooms both have exposed water supply and drainage pipes		606.5	30.9.5	Insulate pipes under sink	Parks Department	FY27
Noel Field Athletic Complex	Lack of accessible playground equipment		1008.2	19.7	Design and construct boundless playground	Community Development	Design FY28 Construction FY29

Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Tactile pad on curb cut in drop-off area is exposed		303.2	22.4.1	Ensure smooth transition during next paving	Parks Department	With repaving
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Extra rubber material covering floor creates change in level		303.2	29.2	Ensure material placed on floor is even throughout the space	Parks Department	With new flooring
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Water fountain is a protruding object		307.2	20.6.1	Recess, remove, or relocate to another area	Parks Department	Beyond FY30
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Locker rooms are not accessible because doorways are too narrow		404.2.3	26.5	Ensure accommodation	Parks Department	Ongoing
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Supply and drainage pipes in restrooms are exposed		606.5	30.9.5	Insulate pipes under sinks	Parks Department	FY27
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Restroom doors require too much pressure to open		404.2.9	26.8.1(b)	Adjust closers	Parks Department	FY26

# Transition Plan

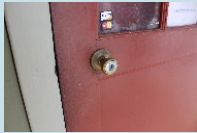




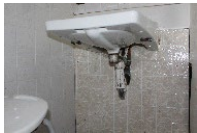
Peter W. Foote Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	Flush control in men's room located in wrong position		604.6	30.7.5	Install new flush control	Parks Department	FY28
River Grove Park	Ramp into playground has significant drop		303.2 1008.2	22.4 19.7	Fix transition into playground to be smooth	Parks Department	FY26
River Grove Park	Insufficient ground-level elements in playground		240.2.1.2	N/A	Add ground-level play elements	Parks Department	Beyond FY30
River Grove Park	Dog park fence cuts off accessible path		206.2.2	20.1	Remove fencing that intrudes on accessible route	Parks Department	FY26
Riverside Park	No accessible routes to the elements		20.2.2	20.2.1	Build accessible route to elements	Parks Department	Beyond FY30
River Street Playground	No accessibility features		Multiple	Multiple	Ensure accessibility in any redesign of the park	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Senior Center Park	Walkway to Senior Center too steep		402.2	20.9	Redesign connection with senior center	Community Development	Beyond FY30

# Transition Plan

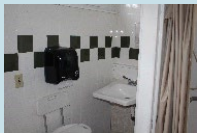
State Street Park	Elements are not on an accessible route		206.2.2	20.1	Extend accessible route to the elements	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	No accessible spaces designated for van accessibility		208.2.4	23.2.2	Designate one spaces for van accessibility	Parks Department	FY26
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	No accessibility to the water		206.2.2	20.2.1	Design and construct an accessible route to the beach	Community Development	Design FY26 Construction FY27
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	No accessible routes to the elements		206.2.2	20.2.1	Design and construct accessible route to pavilion and grills	Community Development	Design FY27 Construction FY28
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Change in level to enter playground		303.2 1008.2	22.4 19.7	Install transition into the playground	Community Development	FY26
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Non-accessible playground		240	N/A	Design and install new playground	Community Development	Design FY30 Construction FY31
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	No railing on ramp to campground office		405	24	Install handrail	Community Development	Beyond FY30



# Transition Plan

Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Campground office door hardware		309.4	26.11.1	Install new hardware on door	Community Development	FY26
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	No accessible route to campground playground		206.2.2 1008.2	20.2.1 19.7	Pave a route from the road to the transition into the playground	Community Development	Beyond FY30
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Restrooms near Windsor Lake are not accessible		Multiple	Multiple	Design new restroom facilities	Community Development	FY27
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Restrooms near Windsor Lake are not accessible		Multiple	Multiple	Build new restroom facilities	Community Development	FY28
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	No signs at inaccessible campground bathrooms directing people to accessible restroom		206.8	41.1.3 (d)	Install appropriate signs at inaccessible restrooms	Parks Department	FY26
Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Supply and drainage pipes under sink are exposed		606.5	30.9.5	Insulate pipes	Parks Department	Beyond FY30

## Transition Plan

Windsor Lake/ Historic Valley Campground	Paper towel dispenser in accessible restroom infringes on path to sink		307.2 403.5.1	20.6.1	Relocate paper towel dispenser	Parks Department	Beyond FY30
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# Resources

Organizations		
Organization Name	Phone & Fax	Address
Adaptive Environments <a href="http://www.adaptenv.org/">http://www.adaptenv.org/</a>	Phone / TTY: (800) 949-4232	374 Congress Street, Suite 310, Boston, MA 02210
American National Standards Institute <a href="https://www.ansi.org/">https://www.ansi.org/</a>	Phone: (202) 293-8020 Fax: (202) 293-9287	1819 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036
The Access Board Federal standards <a href="https://www.access-board.gov/ada/">https://www.access-board.gov/ada/</a>	Phone: (202) 272-5434 TTY: (202) 2725449 Fax: (202) 272-5447	1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111
Massachusetts Architectural Access Board State standards <a href="https://www.mass.gov/aab-rules-and-regulations">https://www.mass.gov/aab-rules-and-regulations</a>	Phone / TTY: (617) 727-0660 Fax: (617) 727-0665	One Ashburton Place, Room 1310, Boston, MA 02108
Massachusetts Office on Disability <a href="https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability">https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability</a>	Phone / TTY: (617) 727-7440 or (800) 322-2020	One Ashburton Place, Room 1305, Boston, MA 02108
National Center on Accessibility <a href="https://ncaonline.org/">https://ncaonline.org/</a>	Phone: 856-4422 TTY: (812) 856-4421 Fax: (812) 856-4480	Indiana University 2805 East 10th St, Suite 190, Bloomington, IN
U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board ("The Access Board") <a href="https://www.access-board.gov/">https://www.access-board.gov/</a>	Phone: (800) 872-2253 TTY: (800) 993-2822 Fax: (202) 272-5447	1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111

## Publications

- *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design*; The Department of Justice
- *ADA Guide for Small Towns*; U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
- *36 CFR Part 1191: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines; Recreation Facilities*. U.S.
- *Architecture and Transportation Compliance Board*. Federal Register (July 9, 1999). Washington, D.C.
- *36 CFR Part 1191: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines; Play Areas*. U.S. Architecture and Transportation Compliance Board. Federal Register (April 30, 1998). Washington, D.C.
- *ADA Transition Plan Workbook*. State House Bookstore, State House, Room 116, Boston, MA 02133.
- *Americans With Disabilities Act Resource Guide for Park, Recreation, and Leisure Service Agencies, First Edition*. Lynn M. Casciotti, Editor. National Recreation and Park Association, Arlington VA, 1992.
- *Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 226, 101<sup>st</sup> Congress*. U.S. Government Printing Office, July 26, 1990.
- *Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access: Review of Existing Guidelines and Practices*. Barbara McMillen (editor). U.S. Department of Transportation, 1999.
- *Everyone's Nature: Designing Interpretation to Include All*. Carol Hunter. Falcon Press Publishing Co., Inc., Helena, Montana, 1994.
- *Play for All Guidelines: Planning, Designing and Management of Outdoor Play Settings for All Children*. Robin Moore et al. MIG Communications, 1992.
- *Reasonable Accommodation: Profitable Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act*. Jay W. Spechler. St. Lucie Press, Delray Beach FL, 1996.
- *The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Review of Best Practices*. Timothy Jones. American Management Association Membership Publications Division, New York, 1993.
- *Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation: A Design Guide*. PLAE, Inc., Berkeley CA, 1993.
- *Universal Trail Assessment Coordinator Training Guide*. P. Axelson et al. Pax Press, Santa Cruz, 1997.

## Potential Funding Sources for Implementation

Funding Source	Description
<p>Community Development Block Grant: Architectural Barrier Removal - Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development</p> <p><a href="https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/04/Architectural%20Barrier%20Removal.pdf">https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/04/Architectural%20Barrier%20Removal.pdf</a></p>	<p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding is one of the few non-local public resources available to help pay for Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR) in public and private buildings. This document explains accessibility regulations, examples of projects eligible for CDBG assistance, the relevant national objective, and considerations that will make a Massachusetts CDBG Program ABR application competitive.</p>
<p>Community Facilities Direct Loan &amp; Grant Program - United States Department of Agriculture</p> <p><a href="https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities">https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities</a></p>	<p>This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.</p>
<p>Complete Streets - MassDOT</p> <p><a href="https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program">https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program</a></p>	<p>The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program addresses critical gaps in transportation networks by giving Massachusetts municipalities tools and funding to advance Complete Streets in their community. Complete Streets are ones that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes - walking, biking, transit and vehicles - for people of all ages and abilities. The program provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities. To be eligible, municipalities must pass a Complete Streets Policy and develop a Prioritization Plan.</p>
<p>MassAbility - Executive Office of Health and Human Services</p> <p><a href="https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massability">https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massability</a></p>	<p>MassAbility empowers people with disabilities to live life on their own terms. Our programs and services expand possibilities in careers and training, home and community life, and legal rights and benefits - including disability determination for federal programs.</p>
<p>Municipal ADA Improvement Grant - Massachusetts Office on Disability</p> <p><a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-ada-improvement-grant-program">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-ada-improvement-grant-program</a></p>	<p>The Municipal ADA Improvement Grant provides funding to Massachusetts cities and towns to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. Funding supports updating a municipality's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition plans and making capital improvements that improve access or remove barriers in municipal programs, services, and facilities.</p>



<p>Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act Grant – Massachusetts Councils on Aging</p> <p><a href="https://mcoaonline.org/municipal-americans-with-disabilities-act-grant">https://mcoaonline.org/municipal-americans-with-disabilities-act-grant</a></p>	<p>These grants will support capital improvements specifically dedicated to improving physical and programmatic access and/or removing barriers encountered by persons with disabilities in applicant facilities throughout the Commonwealth. Grants will be awarded to successful applicants to remove barriers and create and improve accessible features and programmatic access for persons with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth.</p>
<p>Unpaved Trails for All – The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation: Trails for All initiative</p> <p><a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trails-for-all#resources">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trails-for-all#resources</a></p>	<p>The Trails for All initiative aims to create universally accessible trails, through intentional trail planning that removes barriers to access and brings the outdoors to individuals of all abilities via trail improvements such as gentle grades, stable surfaces, and inclusive signage in Massachusetts.</p> <p>Nature has proven health benefits for stress relief, chronic illness and stress-related illnesses, and unpaved trails provide greater health benefits when compared to paved trails.</p>
<p>Quality of Life Grants Program – Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation</p> <p><a href="https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/">https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/</a></p>	<p>The Quality of Life Grants Program, created by the late Dana Reeve, strives to empower individuals with disabilities and their families by providing grants to nonprofit organizations that improve quality of life through inclusion, access, independence, opportunities for community engagement, and other life-enhancing endeavors.</p>