

Williamstown ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

June 2025



BRPC
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission



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Introduction

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illiamstown is the fourth largest town in Berkshire County, located in the northwestern most corner of the Commonwealth. The town is home to world-class cultural resources, Williams College, and a historic downtown.

Williamstown's population is 7,630. Approximately 11% (819 total) of the town's total population identifies as having a disability. The majority of those with a disability are over the age of 64 (60.6%). The most prominent disability among Williamstown residents is cognitive difficulty (4.7%) followed by hearing (4.2%), difficulty living independently (3.8%), ambulatory difficulty (3.2%), vision (.9%), and self-care (.7%).

Throughout the nation, people with disabilities or medical conditions often face physical, cognitive, and programmatic barriers to full participation in civic life. The Americans with Disabilities Act is a civil rights legislation requiring municipalities to proactively eliminate barriers to facilities and services through both physical improvements to the built environment and through changes to policies and procedures.

In the law, the federal government defines a person with disabilities as a person who 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. The ADA does not clearly define "an impairment," "substantially limits," or "major life activities." The Department of Justice advises that "substantially limits" is broadly interpreted by the courts but not every condition meets the standard.

The town has both a legal obligation and moral duty to ensure that all residents are welcomed and have equitable access to government services and opportunities. However, the town is a small, historic New England town with a history dating back to 1765, more than 200 years before the federal government codified the civil rights of people with disabilities in the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, and the town's infrastructure was not originally designed for accessibility. Many of the town-owned buildings were originally constructed as private properties and were not subject to the ADA that the town later acquired.

The 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act established standards for access to goods and services. The federal government later provided the ADA Design Standards, which detail the minimum requirements for a town-owned facility to be in compliance with the ADA. The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board similarly issued 521 CMR, which is a building code – notably different from the civil rights legislation of the ADA – for new construction and renovations.

Williamstown, like all of New England, embarked on the process to adhere to federal standards to ensure accessibility within its existing buildings, which continues to be a work in progress. The town constructed several new buildings in recent years, all completely accessible.

The town has continually worked to identify and remove barriers within its existing buildings. In 2018, the town hired Kessler McGuinness and Associates, LLC. to conduct the most recent ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which the Department of Justice requires towns to maintain.

In 2024, Williamstown obtained a grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability to conduct a new Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to document the progress the town made and re-examine the properties.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is one of 13 regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth. Established under M.G.L. C. 40B, the commission serves Berkshire County communities with an array of services, including the development of long-range municipal and regional plans. Great Barrington partnered with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to develop the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. The plan consists of evaluating all town properties to identify barriers, conducting policy analysis, collecting data, and learning directly from people who have experienced barriers in the community.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission conducted the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in collaboration with town officials.

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 town 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 town may be entitled to claim in a legal challenge. 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, towns 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 town must conduct an evaluation of all resources available for use in the program. The town'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 Requirements

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 town 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 town 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 towns 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 towns to develop and publicize an ADA grievance procedure, post a public notice of non-discrimination, and appoint a staff member as the ADA Coordinator.

ADA Coordinator

The Board of Selectmen Appointed Building Commission Ryan Contena on June 13, 2024, to serve as the town's ADA Coordinator. The letter of appointment is available on the next page:



OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER

Robert Menicocci | rmenicocci@williamstownma.gov | 413.458.3500

31 North Street, Williamstown, MA 01267 | www.WilliamstownMa.gov

ADA Coordinator Designation Form

ADA Coordinator Name: Ryan Contenta

Name of City/Town Department that ADA Coordinator Works: Williamstown Community Development

Job Title: Building Commissioner

E-Mail: rcontenta@williamstownma.gov

Phone: 413-458-3500

Address: 31 North Street, Williamstown, MA 01267

Date Appointed: June 13, 2024

Is This Appointment: Permanent

Does this ADA Coordinator report directly to the appointing authority? No

ADA Coordinator Duties: Part-Time

Direct Supervisor (Name and Title): Andrew Groff, Community Development Director

Appointing Authority Signature: _____ Date: June 13, 2024

Robert Menicocci, Town Manager

Grievance Policy

Williamstown meets the requirements of having a grievance policy. However, the policy is not posted on the town's website where it can be easily found.

The policy is as follows:

Town of Williamstown, Massachusetts, Grievance Procedure under 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 Town of Williamstown. The Town'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 the name, address, phone number of the 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 Mr. Ryan Contenta, ADA Coordinator, at rcontenta@williamstownma.gov, 413-458-3500, 31 North Street, Williamstown, MA 01267.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Ryan Contenta or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Mr. Contenta or his 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 Town and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Mr. Contenta, or his designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Select Board or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Select Board or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Select Board or their 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 Mr. Contenta or his designee, appeals to the Select Board or their designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town for at least three years.

Public Notice of Non-Discrimination

The town of Williamstown affirmed its commitment to non-discrimination in its public notice, as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, the notice is not posted on the town's website.

The notice reads as follows:

ADA Notice Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act

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

Employment: The Town 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).

Effective Communication: The Town 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 Town'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 Town will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all Town programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Town 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 Town program, service, or activity, should contact Mr. Ryan Contenta, ADA Coordinator, at rcontenta@williamstownma.gov, 413-458-3500, 31 North Street, Williamstown, MA 01267, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Town 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 Town program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Mr. Ryan Contenta, ADA Coordinator, at rcontenta@williamstownma.gov, 413-458-3500, 31 North Street, Williamstown, MA 01267.

The Town 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 equal access to town 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.

Six department heads responded to a request for information about ADA procedures. Different departments have different levels of knowledge and ability to assist patrons with accessibility issues.

Departments should be encouraged to administer program-specific accommodations and purchase technology. However, the town should also adopt a town-wide ADA policy to ensure all departments have a uniformed understanding of their ADA responsibilities.

Policies and Procedures Evaluation: Williamstown Services

Department	Services	Staff Trained on ADA	Assistive Technology Available	Information Available in Different Formats	Accommodation Procedures
Library	Provides educational material, support, and programming to community members of all ages.	Yes/No	Mono mouse, assistive hearing devices, touchpads for computer use,	Yes	Staff are informed to report all requests to the director, who is responsible for making accommodation.
Assessors	Responsible for annually valuing real and personal property tax values.	No	None	No	The assessor manages all requests directly with the requestor.
Town Clerk	Serves as a repository for vital records and conducts all activities relating to annual street	Yes	Accessible ballot marking device (called Automark), magnifiers available, accessible	Yes	Staff should inform the Town Clerk an accommodation is needed and will assist.

Evaluation of Administrative Requirements

	listing, voter registration, elections and town meeting, administer oaths of office for public officials, issues dog licenses and fuel tank registration.		voting electronic option, accessible voting booths. 1 set of sample ballots & voter rights are posted no more than 48" so someone in a wheelchair can read them easily. Ballots are available in other languages with some advanced notice as well as marriage intention paperwork.		
Council on Aging	Provides services and programming for older adults, including meal services, transportation, and social engagement.	Yes	No	Yes	Assist by request
Police Department	Oversees law enforcement and public safety services including police officers and a dispatch center.	Staff receive training on accessibility within the department's related field.	The department has access to assistive technologies.	Information is not readily available in different formats but will produce materials upon request.	The building is accessible, and the department contacts appropriate outside agencies for assistance as needed.

Tax Collector	Responsible for accepting tax payments	No	No	Email and online portal.	No written procedure but collector does meet taxpayers in accessible locations as needed.
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Commission on Disabilities

In accordance with M.G.L Ch. 40 § 8J, the Commission is responsible for coordinating and implementing programs to improve accessibility in the community.

M.G.L Ch. 40 § 8J empowers Commissions on Disabilities to:

1. research local problems of people with disabilities;
2. advise and assist municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities;
3. coordinate or carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the Massachusetts office on disability;
4. review and make recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of said city or town as they affect people with disabilities;
5. provide information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability;
6. coordinate activities of other local groups organized for similar purposes.

Williamstown does not have a Commission on Disabilities. The town should create one to oversee the implementation of this plan and to identify and implement other opportunities to increase accessibility.

Snow removal and Accessibility in Massachusetts

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.

Therefore, timely and thorough snow clearing of all sidewalks and accessible routes is essential for supporting people's safety and independence.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the regulations established by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) require "maintenance of accessible features," meaning all accessibility features must be always maintained and kept fully operational.

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.

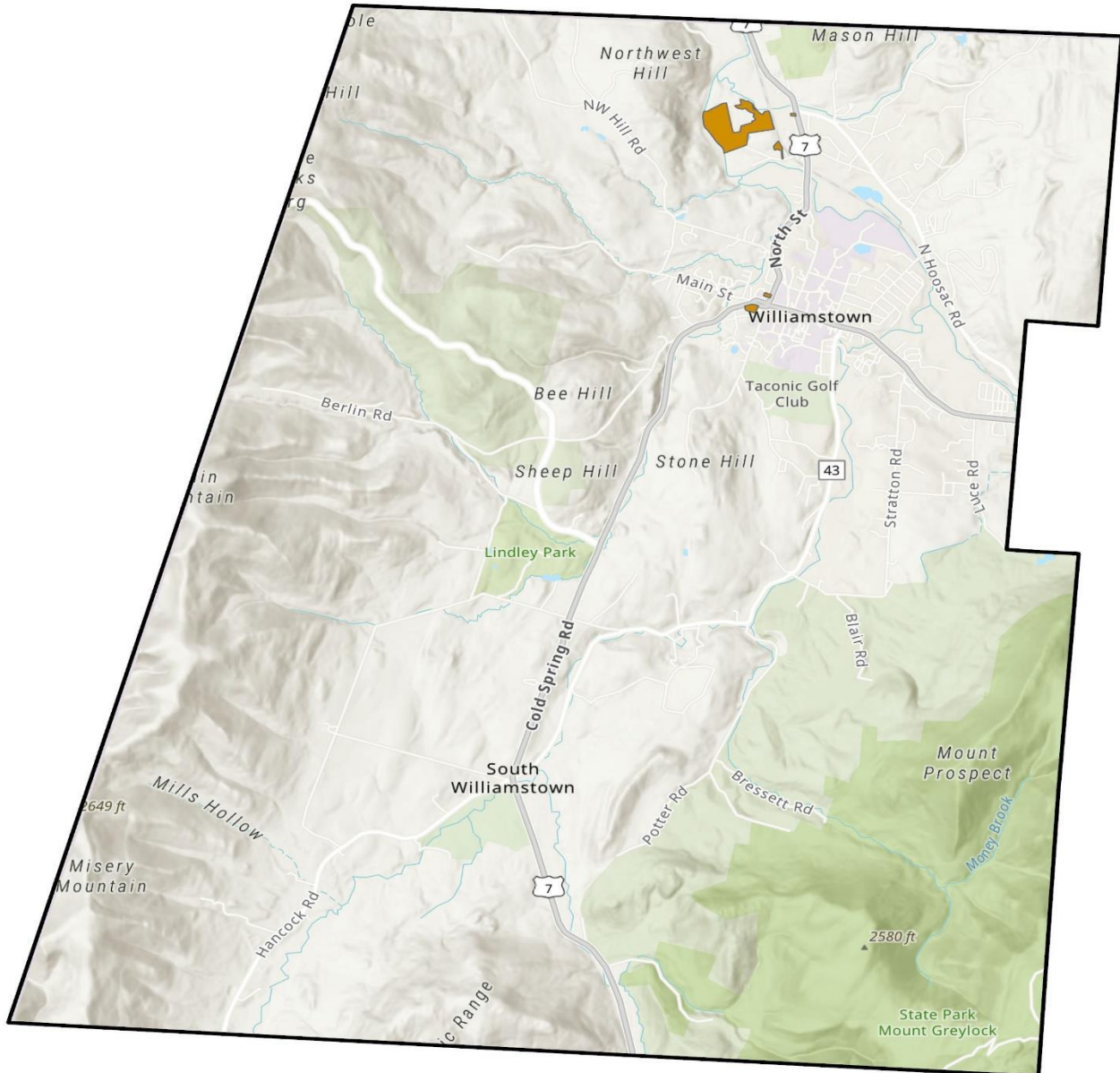
Failure to remove snow and ice in a timely and effective manner can result in injuries, personal injury lawsuits, and disability rights related lawsuits.

Williamstown does not have policy.

Evaluation of Town-Owned Buildings

Town of Williamstown ADA Assessment

 Building



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 2,500 5,000
Feet

Section 35.151(a), which provided that those facilities that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

The path of travel requirements contained in the title III regulation are based on section 303(a)(2) of the ADA, 42 U.S.C 12183(a)(2), which provides that when an entity undertakes an alteration to a place of public accommodation or commercial facility that affects or could affect the usability of or access to an area that contains a primary function, the entity shall ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the restrooms, telephones and water fountains serving the altered area are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

The Department of Justice recognizes four priorities as equally applicable to state and local government facilities.

- 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

BRPC Evaluated the following town buildings:

- Town Hall
- Milne Public Library
- The Harper Center
- The Police Station

Town Hall

The Williamstown Town Hall was constructed in 1927 on 31 North Street. The 12,180 square-foot building features town offices and meeting spaces.

Priority 1 – Accessible Approach and Entrance

Visitors to Town Hall can access the building through an accessible entrance at the rear of the building or through the front door.

In the front of the building, there is one accessible parking space. After parking, access to the sidewalk requires a visitor to ascend a curb ramp. At the intersection between the curb ramp and the asphalt parking lot, there is a change in level above $\frac{1}{4}$," which is out of compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.10.



The town hall building includes multiple town offices.

There is a ramp providing access to the door. The ramp measured at a slope of as much as 9.1% in places which exceeds the 8.3% maximum outlined in 405.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 24.2.1. Visitors then confront a change in level above $\frac{1}{4}$ " at the front door threshold, which is not in compliance with 404.2.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1.

The front entrance is not accessible. The town should either make it accessible or install a sign indicating where the accessible entrance is in accordance with 216.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 25.6.

The rear entrance features a delineated parking lot with one accessible parking space but it does not have a space identified as van accessible. 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2 requires that there be at least one van accessible parking space. Van accessible spaces must be at least 11-feet

wide and have a five-foot access aisle or eight-feet wide with an eight-foot aisle. The aisle must be painted with diagonal lines and the sign must identify the space as van accessible.



The front entrance measures at a slope of 9.1%, which is above standards.

The current accessible sign measures at 26" from the ground, which is below the 60" requirement outlined in 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.6.4.

An accessible ramp provides access to the building, where there is a push-button door opener and easy access to an accessible elevator.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Throughout the building there are structural barriers to services.

None of the permanent rooms have appropriate signage. 521 CMR 41.1.1 require all permanent rooms and spaces to have tactile signage. Both Section 703 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41 provide the specifications for signs. The signs should be tactile, have high contrast, and be located on the latch side of the door at a height of 60" from the centerline of the sign to the floor.

There are no audible and visual fire alarms which does not comply with 702.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 40.1. Additionally, there is no accessible signage indicating egress routes in accordance with 521 CMR 41.1.3 (e).

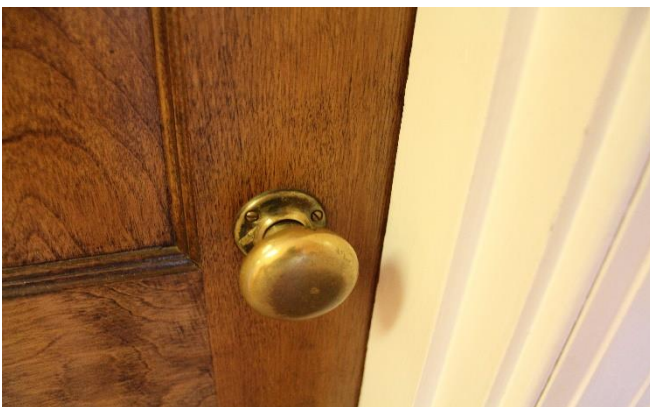


There is no accessible signage indicating where office spaces are located.

There are various town offices where visitors can access goods and services. The town clerk's office, town manager's office, and meeting room are all located on the first floor.

The clerk's office has inaccessible door handles. Doors must be opened with a closed fist and cannot require any "tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist," as detailed in 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.11.1. The doors, however, are propped open, which is reasonable accommodation to provide access to the space.

The town manager's office is accessible. There are, however, coat hangers located approximately 67" high, which is above reach ranges outlined in 308.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 6.5, which establishes the maximum height of 48".



Doorknobs are inaccessible because they require gripping and turning of the wrist.

The meeting room lacks an accessible table. The meeting table does not have the required 27" of knee clearance required by 306.3.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 35.5. The room has ample space to accommodate somebody in attendance by moving chairs to provide adequate space.

The town accountant and tax collector are located on the second floor of the building. The offices are accessible by using an accessible elevator that complies with 407 standards.

The treasurer and tax collector's office are partially accessible. The threshold entering the space is ½" which is above the ¼" in 404.2.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1.

The office provides coat hooks, which are located approximately 64 ½" high, which is above the 2010 ADA Standards 308.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 6.5. The door hardware is out of compliance with 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.11.1.

The third floor features the office of community development and veteran services. The third floor is accessible by utilizing an ADA compliant elevator.

The veteran's services officer's office does not have compliant door handles and there is a change in level at the door threshold entering the space more than ¼".

The office of community development does not have an accessible counter. The counter is above the 38" maximum height as detailed in 904.3.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

Priority 3 – Access to Public Toilet Rooms

The accessible restroom is available on the first floor. There are two additional bathrooms located on upper floors – a women's room on the second floor and a men's room on the third. Those restrooms are not accessible.

There are multiple accessibility challenges in the first floor "accessible" stall.

The sign is not tactile or braille as required by 703 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.



Thresholds throughout the building are not compliant.



The heater infringes on the toilet.

Entering the restroom is challenging because of the heavy door and improper door handles. The door requires approximately 15 lbs. of pressure. 404.2.9 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1 (b) limit the amount of pressure required to open to require not more than 5 lbs.

The handle to the door is a knob, which is not compliant with 309.4 and 521 CMR 26.11.1. Operable parts must not require grasping or turning of the wrist.

The toilet's flush valve is located on the incorrect side, as defined in 604.9.5 which requires "flush

controls shall be located on the open side of the water closet” and 521 CMR 30.7.5. The flush control location impacts someone’s ability to use them.

Additionally, the toilet paper dispenser is located approximately 14” from the center line of the toilet, which is not in compliance with 604.9.6, which requires dispensers to be located between 7” and 9” from the centerline.

Coat hangers in the bathroom are approximately 68” high, which exceeds the 48” maximum in 603.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 6.5.

Lastly, the pipes underneath the sink are not covered to protect someone from bumping their knees and getting hurt. 606.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.9.5. which require that water supply and drainpipes be insulated or otherwise protect against contact.

The upstairs bathrooms are not accessible. Both have heavy doors, doorknobs, threshold changes in level over ¼,” inaccessible stalls, uncovered pipes, lack of leg room, and light switches out of reach ranges. Those rooms would need significant renovations to become compliant.

The town should provide directional signage to the accessible bathroom to comply with 216.8 of the ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.1.3 (d), which require that “where existing toilet rooms or bathrooms do not comply with 603, directional signs indicating the location of the nearest toilet room or bathing room complying with 603 within the facility shall be provided.”



A door pressure gauge measured the amount of effort to open the accessible bathroom door at approximately 15 lbs., which is above the 5 lbs. standard.



The drinking fountain is not compliant.

Priority 4 – Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains

There is a water fountain on the first floor of the building. The fountain is not in compliance because the spout is located approximately 40” above the ground. 602.4 of the ADA Standards and 521 CMR 36.4 establishes a maximum height of 36” for the spout.

Milne Public Library

The library opened in its current location on Main Street in 1996. The building was a former private school, originally built in 1971 and completely renovated into the current library starting in 1996 and concluding in 1999.

The building is accessible.

Priority 1 – Accessible Approach and Entrance

The parking lot features two accessible spaces, both of which include compliant signage and van accessibility. There is sufficient loading and unloading space. The path from the parking spaces includes using a compliant accessible curb cut. The entrance to the building features push-button openers programmed to close the door at the appropriate speed.

However, the threshold entering the building is in disrepair and now has a change in level above ¼" which is not in compliance with 404.2.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1.

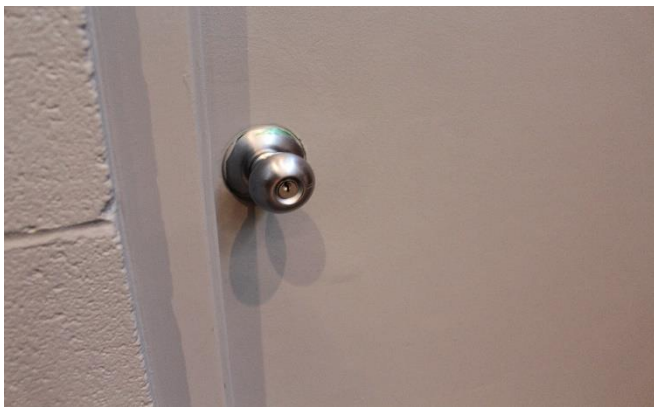
Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The building is one-story and there are multiple rooms, each one providing adequate open space. There is sufficient maneuverability throughout the library, service desks are of appropriate height, and desks and other seating areas are compliant.

The signage throughout the building and doorknobs on many of the doors are not compliant.



The library features wide open spaces with adequate maneuverability.



The doors to interior spaces feature doorknobs, which are not accessible.

The permanent rooms do not feature tactile signs, located on the latch side of the door. 521 CMR 41.1.1 require all permanent rooms and spaces to have tactile signage. Both Section 703 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41 outline the sign requirements.

The interior doors feature doorknobs which require "tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist," and are not in compliance with 309.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

The library keeps the doors open as reasonable accommodation but could increase accessibility by replacing those with more appropriate handles.

An exterior gazebo is fully accessible, including an accessible route from the parking lot and the building.

Priority 3 – Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are two unisex bathrooms, which are mostly accessible. The door to the accessible bathrooms is too heavy, requiring approximately 10 lbs. of pressure to open. Interior doors can only require a maximum of 5 lbs. of pressure to open to comply with 404.2.9 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.8.1 (b).

The signs are located 57" high, which is outside of reach ranges, and not located on the latch side of the door, as defined in 703.4.1 and 703.4.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 41.2.

There is an additional restroom on the northern side of the building. The restroom is mostly compliant. The mirror and paper towel dispenser are outside of reach ranges, measuring at 52" and 51" respectively. 603.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.11 requires mirrors to be a maximum of 40" high and 308.2.1 and 521 CMR 6.5 requires objects to be between 15" high and 48" high.

The flush control is also located on the wall side of the restroom, which is out of compliance with 604.9.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.7.5 which requires controls to be "located on the open side of the water closet."



The sign on the accessible restroom are not located on the latch side and are outside of reach ranges.



Signage throughout the building is non-compliant.

The library could install a sign directing people to the accessible bathrooms at the front of the building and be in compliance with 216.8 of the ADA Standards, which require that "where existing toilet rooms or bathrooms do not comply with 603, directional signs indicating the location of the nearest toilet room or bathing room complying with 603 within the facility shall be provided."

Priority 4 – Access to Other Items Such as Water Fountains

The library has a compliant water fountain.

The Harper Center

The Council on Aging operates the Harper Center on Church Street. The property is owned by the Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation and much of the property features privately-owned living facilities.

The Council on Aging occupies a four-room building, consisting of two large open space communal areas, a director's office, and a kitchen. There are two restrooms available.

Priority 1 –Approach and Entrance

The Harper Center has five accessible parking spaces available. Only two of the spaces have a sign. All accessible spaces should be identified with a sign featuring the International Symbol of Accessibility and van accessible spaces should read "van accessible" in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.6. The signs should be 60" from the ground, of which the signs in place are not compliant.

The parking spaces are located next to an accessible entrance. There is a path to a compliant ramp to enter the building. However, that ramp is not the primary entrance to the building. There is an accessible path along the side of the building to the main entrance but there is no curb cut to provide access to that pathway. The Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation could increase accessibility by installing a curb cut to connect the accessible parking spaces to the main entrance.

The threshold of the door to the entrance near the accessible parking space is worn-out and currently has a change in level above the ¼" limit outlined 404.2.5 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 26.10.1.



The Council on Aging operates out of the Harper Center on Church Street.



The accessible parking spaces do not have adequate signage.

The Harper Center provides transportation with an accessible van and designated a van loading area located at the primary entrance to the facility. People using wheelchairs can use the drop-off location to ensure easy access to the building.

The Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation could improve accessibility by providing signage at the property entrance directing people to the drop-off location on the other side of the building.

The accessible entrance features a push-button door-opener, which is appropriately programmed to allow sufficient entering and exiting time. Like the

other entrance, the threshold is worn-out and in need of replacement. The threshold exceeds the ¼" limit.

The asphalt surfaces throughout the parking lot and around the building show signs of wear. The Williamstown Elderly Housing Corporation should keep up with maintenance before the surface deteriorates and becomes inaccessible.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The services provided at the center take place in two large, open rooms. The town has adjustable tables to provide people with disabilities customized seating to meet their needs. The kitchen space is only available to employees and volunteers. The meals are then brought to the patrons at their tables.

There is a small office for the director, but no goods or services are provided in that space.

There is no signage for the community rooms. Permanent spaces should have tactile signs identifying the rooms according to 521 CMR 41.1.1.

Priority 3 – Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There are two publicly accessible restrooms. Both feature compliant accessible stalls. One bathroom provides both a wheelchair accessible water closet and an ambulatory accessible water closet.

The restrooms have appropriate signage. The mirrors in both restrooms are 48" high, which is above the 40" maximum outlined in 603.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.11.



There are accessible routes throughout the property.



The thresholds at two of the entrances are deteriorating and create changes in levels above ¼."

The paper towel dispensers are just within range, measuring 48" which is in compliance with 308.2.1 requires objects to be between 15" high and 48" high.

The flush control in the women's restroom is accessible while the flush control in the men's accessible stall is located on the wall side of the restroom, which is out of compliance with 604.9.5 and 521 CMR 30.7.5 which requires controls to be located on the open side of the water closet. .

Priority 4 – Additional Access

The Harper Center has a water fountain that is in compliance with 602 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

Police Station

In July 2019 the Williamstown Police Department relocated from the back portion of the Town Hall building to a new state-of-the-art station located on Simonds Road.

The new police station features covered parking for patrol vehicles, multiple interview rooms and offices, a self-sufficient dispatch center, a training room, incident command center for emergencies, kitchen facilities, small workout area, holding cells, as well as evidence and report storage. The new police station follows federal and state ADA guidelines.



The Police Station is accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The station has two accessible parking spaces located in front of the building. There is an accessible aisle, one space is van accessible, and an accessible route into the building.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The building is accessible, and visitors can access goods and services without encountering any barriers.

Priority 3 – Access to Public Toilet Rooms

There is an accessible public toilet room located in the building.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Evaluation of Parks and Open Spaces

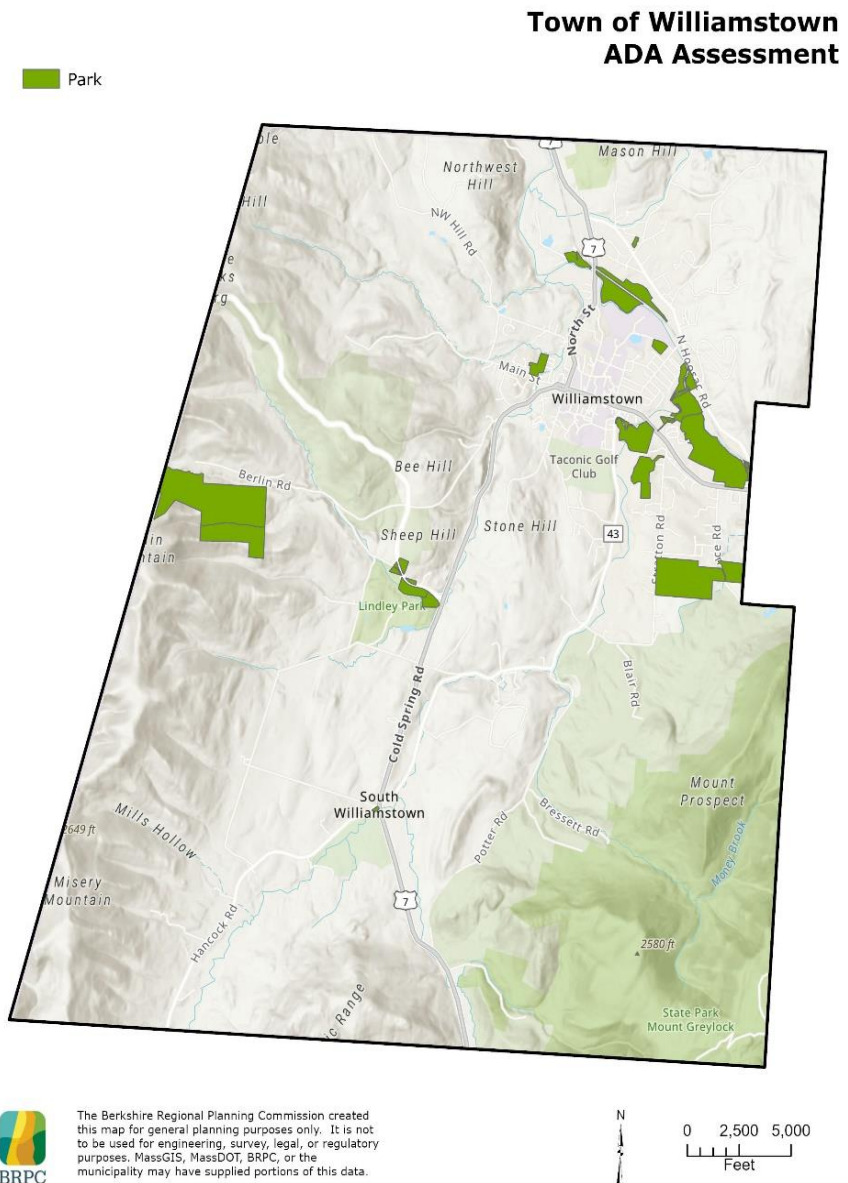
The town has 24 recreational properties, a majority of the which are not developed and offer visitors active, outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, and kayaking. Many of the undeveloped properties offer physically challenging terrain.

The town maintains six recreational parks with varying elements at each parcel.

Margaret Lindley Park is the only one that features restrooms. The park also features a beach, hiking trails, and picnic areas. Conversely, the Berlin Preserve consists of steep terrain and is used as the training area for Williams College's competitive cross-country skiing team. The area is undeveloped with no accessibility features and limited options to improve accessibility.

The town has a close partnership with the Williamstown Land Trust, which preserves hundreds of acres of land for conservation purposes. Many of the town-owned conservation areas abut Williamstown Land Trust properties to expand recreational opportunities.

There are two schools located in Williamstown, both under the management of the regional school district. Williamstown Elementary School serves students K-6 and the grounds, which the non-profit Williamstown Youth Center also utilize, are accessible. Mount Greylock Regional Middle and High School serves students 7-12 and recently underwent a significant renovation to its entire campus, which included ensuring the outdoor spaces are fully accessible.



A map of the town-owned parks and recreational areas.

The open space and recreational assets in town have varying degrees of accessibility. However, none of the properties are fully accessible and beyond the schools, which are only available to the public outside of school hours, there are no accessible parks available.

The most common accessibility barrier throughout the park system is a lack of accessible paths. The town is not required to ensure every park is accessible, but it is required to provide at least one accessible park in its system.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission utilized the federal 2010 ADA Standards and the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board to evaluate the properties. The evaluation followed the Department of Justice's four priority areas - Approach and Entrance, Access to Good and Services, Toilet Rooms, and additional access to such items as drinking fountains and public telephones.

The evaluation included:

- Berlin Road Preserve
- Bloedel Park
- Bridges Pond Conservation Area
- Broad Brook Park
- Green River Wildlife Management Area
- Henderson Road Property
- Hunter Property
- Lauren's launch
- Linear Park Picnic Area
- Linear Park
- Lowry Property
- Luce Road Property
- Margaret Lindley Park
- Misery Mountain
- Mount Greylock Middle and High School
- Mount Hope Park
- Pine Cobble Preserve
- Spruces
- Stone Hill Property
- Williamstown Elementary School
- Williamstown Reservoir

The following section identifies the barriers present in each park.

Berlin Road Preserve

The town owns approximately 270-acres of land on Luce Road. The land is undeveloped and not accessible due to being landlocked. Access to the property requires someone to travel through privately-owned land.

The preserve is not accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no access to the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The preserve is only accessible through hiking trails provided by a private landowner.

Bloedel Park

Bloedel Park is a .96-acre property in South Williamstown. It is located at the intersection of Route 43 and Cold Spring Road. The location does not have any designated parking space and provides benches and a grill for picnicking.

The park is not accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.

The town could increase accessibility by adding delineated accessible parking, but it is currently not required. Parking, if provided, is detailed in Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no accessible route to the benches and grills, which is not in compliance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

The tables are not accessible, which does not comport with 521 CMR 19.5.1. At least 5% of the tables provided on a site must be accessible. The tables should be on an accessible path and have a hard surface underneath, as demonstrated in 521 CMR 19.5.2 figure 19d.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There is no toilet rooms provided on site.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The few elements available are not accessible.

Bridges Pond Conservation Area

Bridges Pond Conservation Area is 25.8 acres in size with a moderate pond measuring seven acres in size. The conversation area has limited access along Route 7 and does not have a designated parking lot. Access to the property involves trespassing on railroad property.

The conservation area is not accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.



The property is not developed.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no access to the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Broad Brook Park

Broad Brook Park, located in a quiet residential neighborhood, offers a small playground, basketball court, baseball diamond, and picnic area perfect for families and small children. The park is fenced in with a small parking area on Harrison Avenue.

The park is not currently accessible but provides the town with an opportunity to create an accessible space.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is a small, designated parking area that has a firm, non-slip gravel surface with one route from the arrival point that does not require the use of stairs.

There is no designated accessible parking spaces provided. Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Design standards and 521 CMR 23.00 outlines the requirements for parking. Broad Brook Park's parking lot provides less than 25 spaces, for which the standards require at least one accessible parking space.

Both 208.2.4 of the ADA and 521 CMR 23.2.2 require that there be at least one van accessible space. The parking should also include signage and delineated aisle access, according to Sections 208 and 502 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.

The pavement is cracking and creating changes in levels above ¼" which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 29.2.1.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The park features are not located on an accessible route, which is not in compliance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards or 521 CMR 20.2.1.

Playgrounds must have an accessible route to be in compliance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7.



There is no accessible parking located on site.



Broad Brook Park is a neighborhood park on Harrison Avenue.



There are no accessible pathways to the elements.

The slope from the parking area to the parks elements exceeds the 5% grade as specified in 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

In designing an accessible route to the property, the town must ensure that it is not steeper than 5% or, alternatively, be no steeper than 8.3% and adhere to the standards for ramps.

The park does feature tables with sufficient knee and toe clearances, but they are not located on an accessible route.



The tables provide sufficient knee and tow clearances but are not located on a firm and slip-resistant surface.

The town can also increase accessibility by installing an adaptive swing and increase the number of ground level elements at the playground in accordance with Section 1008 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Green River Wildlife Management Area

The town owns a 223.68-acre parcel connected to property owned by the Commonwealth's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

The town's land is not accessible because it is landlocked. Access to the property requires a person to hike through the Commonwealth's conservation land.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.



Access to the property requires a person to hike through the Commonwealth's property.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

Access to the property is inaccessible and access through the Commonwealth's land requires walking through steep terrain with downed trees and other protruding objects.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Henderson Road Property

The town owns approximately 27 acres of land near the Vermont border for conservation purposes.

The two contiguous parcels are landlocked and are inaccessible. There is no access to the properties without trespassing through private land.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no access to parking.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

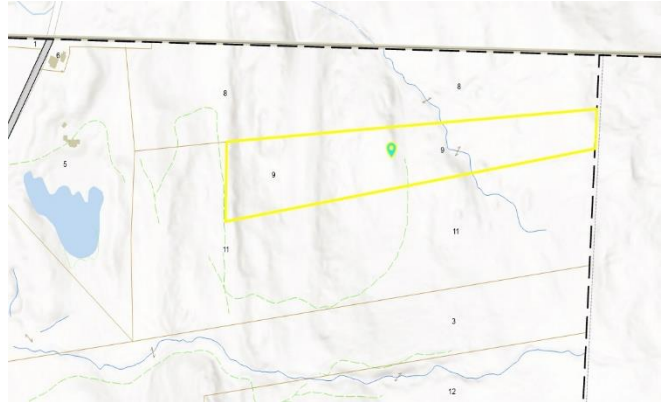
There are no goods and services available on the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the property.



The Henderson Road property is not accessible, as demonstrated on the assessor's map.

Hunter Property

The town owns approximately 179 acres of land off Petersburg Road.

The parcel is landlocked and is inaccessible. There is no access to the property without trespassing through private land.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no access to parking.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

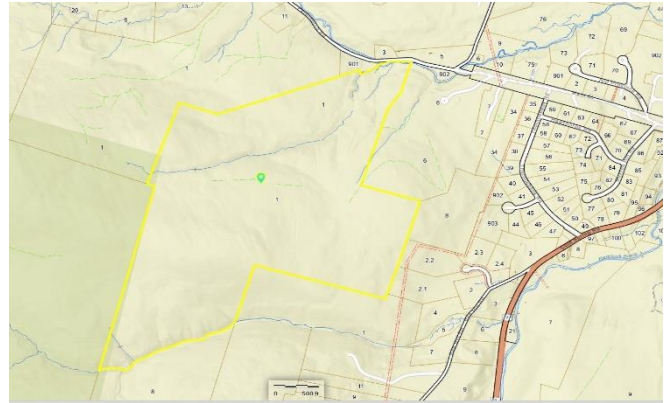
There are no goods and services available on the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the property.



The Hunter property is inaccessible.

Lauren's Launch

Lauren's Launch is a put-in and take-out spot for canoeing or kayaking. At the launch visitors will find a sign denoting the entrance. This entrance will then lead visitors to a small trail from the street.

After about 10 feet, the trail drops steeply to a sandy beach along the Hoosic River. Conditions at the launch depend on the water level.

Lauren's Launch is not accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no designated parking area for Lauren's Launch. Visitors should park on a small dirt shoulder off the Williamstown transfer station road.

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The elements at Laurens Launch are not accessible due to a lack of accessible routes for the elements.

To access the river requires a person to descend a steep pathway that passes through grass, which is not an accessible route in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

Additionally, the slope from the parking area to the river exceeds the 5% grade as specified in 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.



Lauren's Launch consists of a steep path to access the water.



Lauren's Launch is located near the town's Department of Public Works facility.

The town could also increase accessibility by installing a compliant gangway and accessible kayak launch.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Linear Park Picnic Area

Linear Park is an expansive park spanning both sides of Main Street spanning six different parcels.

On Water Street, a parking lot provides access to a hiking trail, picnic area, and playground. It is removed from the rest of Linear Park and sits on its own town-owned parcel, which BRPC evaluated separately from the remainder of the park.

The 1.69-acre parcel is walking distance from downtown and connects to East View Cemetery.

The picnic area features a few accessible components, installed in recent years as part of volunteer efforts to improve the park. The ADA compliant playground provides a safe and compliant rubber surface and playground equipment is at ground level, compliant with standards.

Additionally, one-third of the park's picnic tables are accessible, which is above the 5% required by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board.

The improvements made to date make Linear Park an ideal location for continued ADA improvements to become a fully accessible park.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

Entrance to Linear Park Picnic Area requires someone to travel over the bridge from Water Street, either by vehicle or along the walkway on the southern side of the bridge. The paved road turns to hard-packed dirt and gravel.



Linear Park Picnic Area on Water Street features walking trails, picnic area, and a playground.



The parking lot does not have accessible parking space.

The gravel surface is not informed, paved, or hard packed smooth surface. Section 302.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.4.4 require parking surfaces be firm.

206.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and MAAB 521 CMR 20.2 require accessible routes from the parking lot to the park elements. Surfaces should be firm and slip resistant. Dirt and loose materials like gravel are generally not compliant because they are influenced by external forces unless the surface is treated with a binder, properly compacted, or utilizing stabilizing grids. The U.S. Access Board recommends using asphalt, concrete, tile, or wood for ground surfaces.

Linear Park Picnic Area has approximately a half dozen parking spaces but none of the spots are accessible. The 2010 ADA Standards 208.2 and 521 CMR 23.2 require one accessible space for every 25 spaces provided. At least one van accessible is required, pursuant to 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2. The lot should also include delineation of aisle access.

A sign featuring the international symbol of accessibility must be installed, with the bottom of the sign being at least 60 inches above the ground in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR Section 23.6.



The slope from the parking lot to the playground exceeds ADA standards.

The full parking standards are detailed in Section 208 of the 2010 ADA Standards and CMR 23.2.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

The elements at Linear Park Picnic Area are not accessible due to a lack of accessible routes the elements in accordance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1. To access the trail requires a person to descend a set of stairs and the pathway to the playground is through grass, which is not an accessible route and not in compliance with 1008.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 19.7.

Additionally, the slope from the parking lot to the playground exceeds the 5% grade as specified in 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.

The topography of the access to the playground lends itself to potential grading to 5% slope and paving to create an accessible path. Alternatively, the town could construct a connecting ramp, which would allow the town to create a slope of 8.3% provided it provides railings to comply with 521 CMR 24.1, to the pedestrian walkway entrance to the park.



Access to the picnic area requires the use of stairs, which is not in compliance with ADA standards.

Linear Park's playground is constructed with an ADA compliant rubber surface and has compliant play elements.

The walking trail is wide enough and relatively flat. However, the steepness of the hill to access the trail, currently requiring stairs, likely renders accessibility improvements infeasible.

The stairs do not comply with Section 504 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 27. Particularly, the town should install accessible handrails.

There is a picnic area along the walking trail. The picnic area features three tables, two grills, and a

garbage can. One of the three tables is specifically designed to be ADA compliant, so the town complies with 521 CMR 19.5.2 which requires at least 5% of the tables to be accessible.

The grills and garbage can are within reach ranges.

However, the picnic area is inaccessible. There is no accessible route to the elements and the topography of the hill likely renders the installation of a ramp or accessible route to the picnic area infeasible.

There is an additional ADA compliant table at the rear of the property, but it too is inaccessible due to a lack of accessible routes.



The park has accessible tables but they are not located on an accessible route.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms at the Linear Park Picnic Area.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Additional Considerations

While not required at the park, the town could increase accessibility by ensuring its signage aligns with guidance of the [U.S. Access Board's Accessibility Standards Guide, Chapter 7.](#)

Linear Park

Linear Park is located off Route 2 and connects to five town-owned parcels on the Hoosac floodplain. The park currently features a tennis court and walking/driving path to connect with the Northern Berkshire multi-use trail. The park is not accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is a small parking lot providing access to the park. The surface is gravel and dirt.

302.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.4.4 require all ground surfaces to be “stable, firm, and slip resistant.” Dirt and loose materials like gravel are generally not compliant because they are influenced by external forces unless the surface is treated with a binder, properly compacted, or utilizing stabilizing grids. The U.S. Access Board recommends using asphalt, concrete, tile, or wood for ground surfaces.

There is a small parking lot, but it does not provide accessible parking as required by 208.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2. The town needs to provide one accessible space for every 25 spaces provided, one of which must be 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

There is no accessible route to the tennis courts, which is not in compliance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1. The trash receptacle and bench are also not located along an accessible route.



There is no accessible parking available at Linear Park.



There is no accessible route to the tennis court.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Additional Considerations

While not required at the park, the town could increase accessibility by ensuring its signage aligns with guidance of the [U.S. Access Board's Accessibility Standards Guide, Chapter 7](#).

Lowry Property

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no access to the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The Lowry property is not accessible.

Luce Road Property

The town owns approximately 130-acres of land on Luce Road. The land is undeveloped.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is no access to the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The Luce Road property is not accessible.

Margaret Lindley Park

Margaret Lindley Park is a 32-acre park, consisting of two parcels, on Cold Spring Road. The park features a beach, restrooms, tables and benches for picnicking and a hiking trail.

The park does not have accessible routes connecting the elements to provide accessibility.

The park is already facing ecological challenges and significant accessibility upgrades are not feasible but smaller changes, as detailed below, are possible to improve usage among people with disabilities.



There are numerous benches for passive recreation.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The park features a small parking lot with two designated accessible parking spaces.

The parking lot is gravel. 302.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.4.4 require all ground surfaces to be firm. Dirt and loose materials like gravel are generally not compliant because they are influenced by external forces unless the surface is treated with a binder, properly compacted, or utilizing stabilizing grids. The U.S. Access Board recommends using asphalt, concrete, tile, or wood for ground surfaces.



The grills are within reach ranges.

Both parking spots are labeled to be van accessible, in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2, and the spots are both nearest to the closed park entrance, in accordance with 208.3.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards.

The signs are not compliant because they are too low. The 2010 ADA Standards 502.6 and 521 CMR 23.6.4 requires the bottom of the sign to be a minimum of 60 inches off the ground.

There is no accessible route from the parking lot to the park, which is out of compliance with 206.2.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.



The sign is too low.

Priority 2 – Access to Good and Services

Picnic tables and trash cans are located throughout the park. Trash receptacles are located along the hard-packed pathways throughout the park providing accessible access to the elements. There are also sufficient ADA accessible tables throughout the park.

However, many of the tables are not along accessible routes. The accessible tables are in the middle of grassy areas, which is not compliant with 521 CMR 20.2.1. The town could increase accessibility by extending the pathways to the accessible tables.

The beach area does not have an accessible path allowing people with walking disabilities to access the water. The town could increase accessibility by installing a Mobi Mat or something similar.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are two restrooms at Margaret Lindley Park. Each restroom features an accessible stall.

There are no sinks. The Department of Public Health only allows the water supply at the building to be used to flush the toilets.

There are two mirrors in each bathroom. The mirrors are slightly above the limit listed in 603.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.11. The bottom of the mirror measures at 43 inches above the ground, three inches above the maximum 40 inches.

The coat hangers are also too high in accordance with 603.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 30.6.1 (c).

The counters, soap dispensers, and toilet paper dispensers are all in compliance with standards.

Priority 4 – Additional Access



There is an accessible stall in each bathroom.



The pipes are appropriately covered, the trash can, and soap dispensers are at an appropriate height. However, the mirrors are slightly too high.



A park ranger provides services on site but there is no accessible route to the building.

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

Additional Considerations

While not required at the park, the town could increase accessibility by ensuring its signage aligns with guidance of the [U.S. Access Board's Accessibility Standards Guide, Chapter 7](#).

Misery Mountain

The town owns approximately 202 acres of land off Oblong Road

The parcel is landlocked and inaccessible. There is no access to the property without trespassing through private land.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is parking provided on site.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

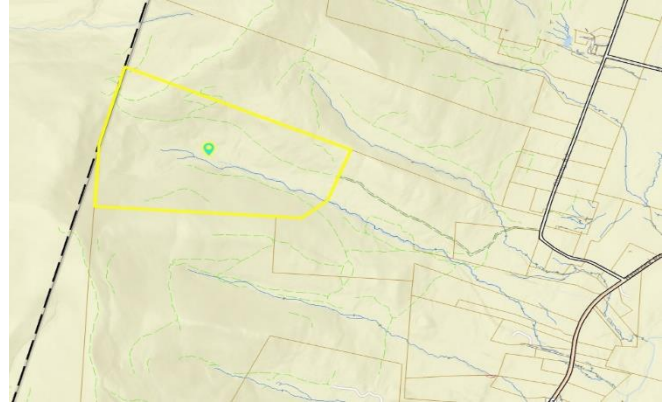
There are no goods and services available on the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the property.



Misery Mountain is landlocked by private interests.

Mount Greylock Middle and High School Playing Fields

The Mount Greylock campus is located on Cold Spring Road. The school is located among 113 acres and features a track, multiple sports fields, and cross-country running and skiing trails. The school recently renovated its playing fields, including ensuring the fields are accessible.

The outdoor spaces at the school are accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

The property features multiple accessible parking locations, all located near various elements of the facility. There is a small parking lot featuring five accessible parking spaces, including van accessible spots, to access the softball and baseball fields.

There is an additional van accessible spot located near the district offices, providing easy access to the nearly constructed track and multi-purpose field.

The campus has sufficient accessible parking. However, the signs identifying the accessible parking near the softball and baseball fields are too low. 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.6.4 require the bottom of accessible parking spaces be no less than five feet. The signs measure at 37 inches.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services



The signs for accessible parking near the baseball and softball fields are too low.



There are accessible paths throughout the facility, connecting elements and playing fields.

There are accessible paths throughout the facility, providing access to all elements. The fields and viewer areas are compliant. There are no barriers restricting access to goods and services.

Priority 3 – Restrooms

There are no restrooms provided at the recreational facilities. The bathrooms located inside the school are compliant.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Mount Hope Park

Mount Hope is a small riverside park. The park is at the confluence of Roaring Brook and the Green River. It features a lawn equipped with picnic tables, charcoal grills, and a small bike repair station.

The park features walking trails visitors can use to get closer to the water and a lookout platform where visitors can watch the cascades of Roaring Brook. Local hikers use the parking lot to hike on the trails at Williams College's Mount Hope Farm.



Mount Hope Park is a small park providing access to the Green River.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is a small, designated parking area that has a firm, non-slip asphalt surface with at least one route from the arrival point that does not require the use of stairs.

There are no marked parking spaces and there is no designated accessible parking spaces provided. 208.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2. specifies that the town needs to provide one accessible space for every 25 spaces provided and 208.2.4 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2. requires one of those spaces must be van accessible.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There is a sufficient number of ADA accessible tables throughout the park, trash receptacles, and two charcoal grills. However, features at the park lack an accessible route, and are located within the middle of grassy areas which are not in compliance with 206.2.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.2.1.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Pine Cobble Preserve

The town owns approximately 9.8 acres of land off Chestnut Street.

The parcel is landlocked and inaccessible. There is no access to the properties without trespassing through private land.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no access to parking.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

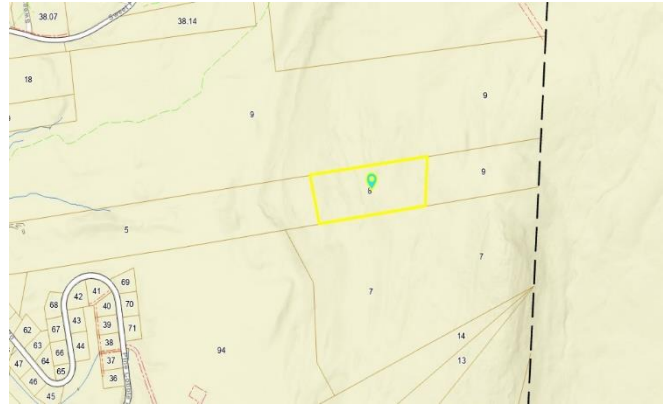
There are no goods and services available on the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

There are no other elements at the property.



Pine Cobble Preserve is inaccessible.

Spruces

Spruces is a 116.03-acre park located along Route 2. The park has a storied history dating back to 1954. It was a thriving retirement community for decades until it was flooded during Hurricane Irene in 2011. Today the park features walking trails and passive recreational options as well as a connection to the accessible Mohawk Trail.

The park is as compliant as can be given regulatory and ecosystem considerations.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There are 37 delineated parking spots in the parking lot, two of which are signed for accessible, which is in accordance with 208.2 of the ADA Standards.

The parking lot is firmly packed with dirt and gravel. Dirt and gravel are typically not compliant because they can become slippery and/or lack firmness without stabilization and constant maintenance, but it is the best option to limit disturbances to the ecosystem.

Both spots are labeled to be van accessible, in accordance with 502.6 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.2.2, and the spots are both nearest to the closed park entrance, in accordance with 208.3.1 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.3.1.

However, the spots do not have aisles marked to discourage others from parking too close as defined in 502.3.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 23.4.6. The surface, however, does not lend itself to painting.



There are two signed accessible spots at the Spruces.



The Spruces was a vibrant community for decades.

Priority 2 – Access to Good and Services

Picnic tables and trash cans are located throughout the park. Trash receptacles are located along the hard-packed pathways throughout the park providing accessible access to the elements. There are also sufficient ADA accessible tables throughout the park.

However, many of the tables are not along accessible routes. The accessible tables are located in the middle of grassy areas, which is not compliant with 521 CMR 20.2.1. The town could increase accessibility by extending the pathways to the accessible tables.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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

Additional Considerations

While not required at the park, the town could increase accessibility by ensuring its signage aligns with guidance of the [U.S. Access Board's Accessibility Standards Guide, Chapter 7.](#)



There are accessible tables at the Spruces, but they are not located on an accessible route.

Stone Hill Property

The Stone Hill trail network spreads throughout the surrounding forests and fields. From the Lunder Center, The Pasture Trail will bring visitors to the top of Stone Hill: an active cow pasture that features scenic views of Williamstown and the surrounding Berkshires.

The property is not accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

Parking for the Lunder Center can be found on a paved road that branches from South Street at the Clark Art Library. Additional parking can be found at the main parking lot for the museum.

There is no parking located on the property.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

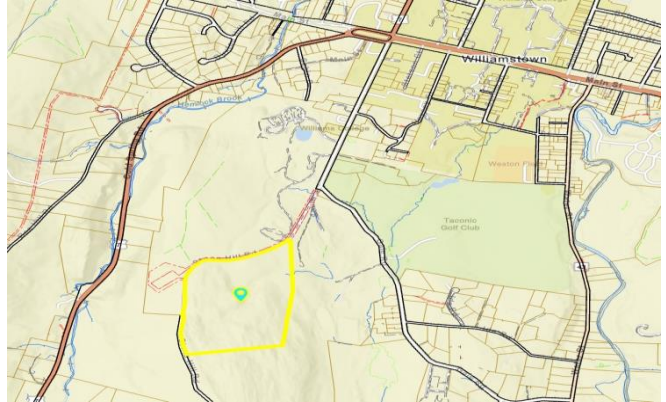
There are no goods and services available on the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The Stone Hill property is not accessible.

Williamstown Elementary School Playgrounds

Williamstown Elementary School features two playgrounds, playing fields, and a gazebo. The property is shared with the school and Youth Center. The outdoor spaces are accessible.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is adequate accessible parking located on site.

Priority 2 – Access to Good and Services

There are accessible paths connecting most of the park elements, apart from the soccer fields in the rear of the property. The playgrounds are fully accessible with sufficient ground-level elements, transition ramps to provide access to aerial elements, access to garbage and tables are located along accessible paths.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no restrooms available in the outdoor spaces.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The Williamstown Elementary School property features two playgrounds and playing fields.

Williamstown Reservoir

The town owns approximately 160-acres of land on Luce Road for its water supply. Access to the property is restricted to employees only. The public is not permitted on the site.

Priority 1 – Approach and Entrance

There is no parking provided. The ADA standards only require accessible parking where parking is provided.

Priority 2 – Access to Goods and Services

There are no goods and services available on the property.

Priority 3 – Toilet Rooms

There are no public restrooms on the property.

Priority 4 – Additional Access

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



The reservoir is not open to the public.

Evaluation of Online Assets

Williamstown has several online assets including webpages and social media platforms for the following municipal entities:

1. Williamstown Town Hall
2. Williamstown Police Department
3. Milne Public Library
4. Williamstown Conservation Commission
5. Williamstown Housing Authority

To assess Williamstown's seven 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. It is important to note that Automated testing cannot detect all accessibility issues, therefore it should be used alongside human testing. BRPC staff conducted further human testing using assistive technologies such as screen readers.

Further human testing and analysis was conducted on the social media platforms of the above online assets, including the Williamstown Council on Aging, and found that posts on town 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. To comply with WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards employees posting to municipal social media platforms should be aware of the Meta's accessibility features.

BRPC provided the full report to the town.

Williamstown Town Hall

The town uses Mungy, a third-party vendor, to create and publish their website, as well as using a different third-party vendor, DigiCert for online bill paying.

Currently, the town does not have an accessibility statement on their website. However, the towns online payment webpage does have a statement listing a phone number for patrons to call if they need assistance.

The third-party vendors for the town website and online payment portal both utilize Level Access, an accessibility software that helps municipalities and organizations create legally compliant websites. Level Access software includes an accessibility widget that can be installed on government webpages, making the webpage more accessible to users with disabilities.

Total 528 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A – 19 issues on 132 pages	Level AA – 2 issues on 24 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> alt text should not be a meaningless image file name. An element with a role that hides child elements contains focusable child elements. An element with the attribute <i>tabindex</i> must not appear as a descendant of an element with <i>role=button</i>. Clickable controls should have an ARIA role. Do not use filenames, placeholders or empty text as text alternatives for timed media. Document title must not be blank. Figures and images in PDF documents should have non blank ALT text, except for decorative images which should be marked as artifacts. For data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers, use markup to associate data cells and header cells. Headings should not be empty. Indicating links using only a text color change does not work for color-blind users. Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast. The CSS outline or border style on this element makes it difficult or impossible to see the link focus outline.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Links must have an accessible name.• PDFs must be tagged to be accessible by screen readers.• Several links on a page share the same link text and surrounding context but go to different destinations.• The <i>a</i> element must not appear as a descendant of an element with <i>role=button</i>.• This skip link is broken. The target anchor does not exist or is commented out.• Use semantic markup like <i>strong</i> instead of using the CSS <i>font-weight</i> property.• Use the <i>lang</i> attribute to identify the language of the page.• Word document contains a graphic without Alt Text. | |
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Williamstown Police Department

The Williamstown Police Department website by does has a telephone number listed to contact the department, however there is no accessibility statement present and no online form is available to contact the department.

Total 527 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A – 13 issues on 287 pages	Level AA – 1 issues on 15 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> alt text should not be a meaningless image file name. Document title must not be blank. Figures and images in PDF documents should have nonblank ALT text, except for decorative images which should be marked as artifacts. Headings should not be empty. Identify row and column headers in data tables using <i>th</i> elements, and mark layout tables with <i>role=presentation</i>. iframe and frame elements must have a title attribute. img elements must have an accessible name. Indicating links using only a text color change does not work for color-blind users. Links must have an accessible name. PDFs must be tagged to be accessible by screen readers. This page uses nested tables, which do not make sense when read in a screen reader. Use semantic markup like strong instead of using the CSS font-weight property. Use the lang attribute to identify the language of the page. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast.

Milne Public Library

The Milne Public Libraries website was recently upgraded to feature an accessibility widget from ReciteMe, allowing users to adjust text and background colors, enhance text size, features a screen reading technology. Despite having the accessibility widget there are some issues SortSite accessibility scan and human testing found the site does not meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards.

Total 527 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A - 19 issues on 110 pages	Level AA - 4 issues on 70 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All fieldset elements should be labeled with legend elements. • alt text should not be a meaningless image file name. • An element with <i>role=button</i> must not appear as a descendant of an element with <i>role=button</i>. • An element with the attribute <i>tabindex</i> must not appear as a descendant of an element with <i>role=button</i>. • An element with the attribute <i>tabindex</i> must not appear as a descendant of an element with <i>role=link</i>. • ARIA <i>role=button</i> element is empty and has no accessible name. • Document title must not be blank • Elements with <i>role=listbox</i> must contain or own an element with <i>role=option</i> and must not contain elements with other roles. • Figures and images in PDF documents should have non blank ALT text, except for decorative images which should be marked as artifacts. • Headings should not be empty. • HTML form control has no accessible name. • Invalid value for ARIA role. • Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose. • Links must have an accessible name. • PDFs must be tagged to be accessible by screen readers. • Several links on a page share the same link text and surrounding context but go to different destinations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot use <i>aria-label</i> or <i>aria-labelledby</i> by on elements and roles that prohibit naming. • Ensure that text and background colors have enough contrast. • If you set any of the colors on the <i>body</i> or <i>an</i> element you must set all of them. • The CSS outline or border style on this element makes it difficult or impossible to see the link focus outline.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This button element is empty and has no accessible name.• Use semantic markup like <i>strong</i> instead of using the CSS <i>font-weight</i> property.• Use the lang attribute to identify the language of the page. | |
|--|--|

Williamstown Conservation Commission

The Williamstown Conservation Commission has its own website that is managed by the commission. There is no accessibility statement present on the conservation commissions website. The conservation commission should ensure all documents that are uploaded to its website can be read with a screen reader and include alternative text descriptions.

Total 27 pages and files scanned through SortSite	
Level A - 8 issues on 4 pages	Level AA - 1 issue on 2 pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An element with <code>aria-hidden=true</code> contains focusable content. • An element with <code>role=menu</code> must not appear as a descendant of an element with <code>role=button</code>. • An element with <code>role=menu</code> item must not appear as a descendant of an element with <code>role=button</code>. • An element with the attribute <code>tab index</code> must not appear as a descendant of an element with <code>role=button</code>. • An <code>img</code> without an <code>alt</code> attribute cannot have a <code>role</code> attribute. • Element <code>div</code> is missing one or more required attributes. • <code>img</code> elements must have an accessible name. • Link uses non-descriptive text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSS outline or border style on this element makes it difficult or impossible to see the link focus outline.

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 town 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 town's website and regularly review online assets for compliance.
- Develop procedures to maintain the accessibility of the town's website, including online documents and provide training to staff.
- If the accessibility and maintenance of the town'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 to test the town'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	https://www.ada.gov/resources/web-rule-first-steps/
The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) - WCAG 2.1 Level AA Online Accessibility Standards	https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/
Massachusetts Office on Disability - Understanding Web Accessibility	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQyZS2CZN4E&t=3167s
Massachusetts Office on Disability - Accessibility Guidance for State Government Agencies	https://www.mass.gov/info-details/accessibility-guidance-for-state-government-agencies
Massachusetts Office on Disability - Creating Accessible Digital Documents	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU8W69okZ70&list=PLsiz0GxiqA2f88B5u9B6uqHDsP3ArEYgK
Civic Plus - Best Practices for Meeting Accessibility Guidelines	https://www.civicplus.com/blog/wa/complete-guide-building-ada-compliant-municipal-websites/
Civic Plus - Municipal Website Redesign	https://www.civicplus.com/tool-kits/ce/wpt/
Facebook and Instagram Accessibility	<p>Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/help/273947702950567?helpref=hc_fnav</p> <p>Instagram - https://help.instagram.com/308605337351503</p> <p>Helpful Tips and Tricks for Accessibility on Instagram - https://about.instagram.com/blog/tips-and-tricks/advancing-accessibility-on-instagram</p>
Accessibility Widgets	<p>UserWay Widget - https://userway.org/</p> <p>AudioEye - https://www.audioeye.com/</p>
Civic Plus - Website Accessibility Scan	https://www.civicplus.com/web-accessibility-software/get-a-scan/
SortSite - Website Accessibility Scan	https://www.powermapper.com/products/sortsites/

Evaluation of Sidewalks and Crosswalks

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission examined the sidewalks and crosswalks along the path connecting Williamstown Elementary School to the Senior Center consisting of Church Street, School Street, Southworth Street, and Cole Avenue., and the path of travel connecting the Library to Town Hall.

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 to warn pedestrians that they are entering a roadway.

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.

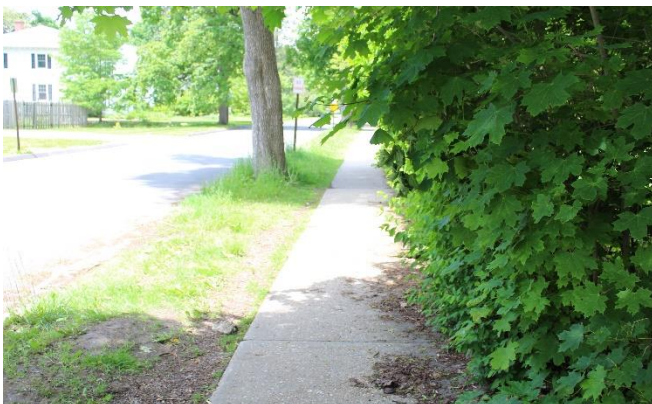
The cross slope of a sidewalk should not exceed 1:48 (2%). Excessive cross slope requires additional energy to counteract and tends to direct wheelchair users into the street, particularly when it is wet, icy, or snowy underfoot. At driveways there should be a minimum 36-inch passage with a cross slope 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.



Excessive cross slopes are difficult to navigate.

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 signage so that it does not impede pedestrian travel.



Walkways with overgrowth that narrows walkways to less than 3 ft. wide are not compliant with the ADA.

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.



The sidewalks overall show signs of deterioration and there are multiple areas that are not accessible.

Evaluation of Sidewalks and Crosswalks Near Williamstown Elementary

Both the Council on Aging and Williamstown Elementary School are located on Church Street, which connects with Cole Avenue and Southworth Street. Both Cole and Southworth connect with Main street, providing pedestrian connectivity.

The sidewalk in front of the Senior Center are significantly challenging. The cross-slope is 8.2%, which is above the maximum cross-slope of 2% outlined in 403.3 of the 2010 ADA Standards and 521 CMR 20.9.



There are several areas along School Street where the concrete has deteriorated significantly and poses tripping hazards.

The sidewalk is asphalt in front of the Senior Center, connecting to both Southworth and Cole, and the asphalt cracked in several places creating tripping hazards. Additionally, the curb curbs on the pathway are not compliant.

On School Street, overgrowth is limiting the width of the sidewalk. All along School Street, from Cole Avenue to Southworth Street, the concrete is deteriorating and poses tripping hazards, especially on the side closer to Southworth Street.

The sidewalks on Southworth Street are also deteriorating and will need maintenance.

None of the crosswalks have audible and vibrotactile crossing signals and only a few crosswalks have tactile warning strips. Metal tactile trips at the intersection of Church and Southworth are tearing off the ground and there is no longer a smooth surface.

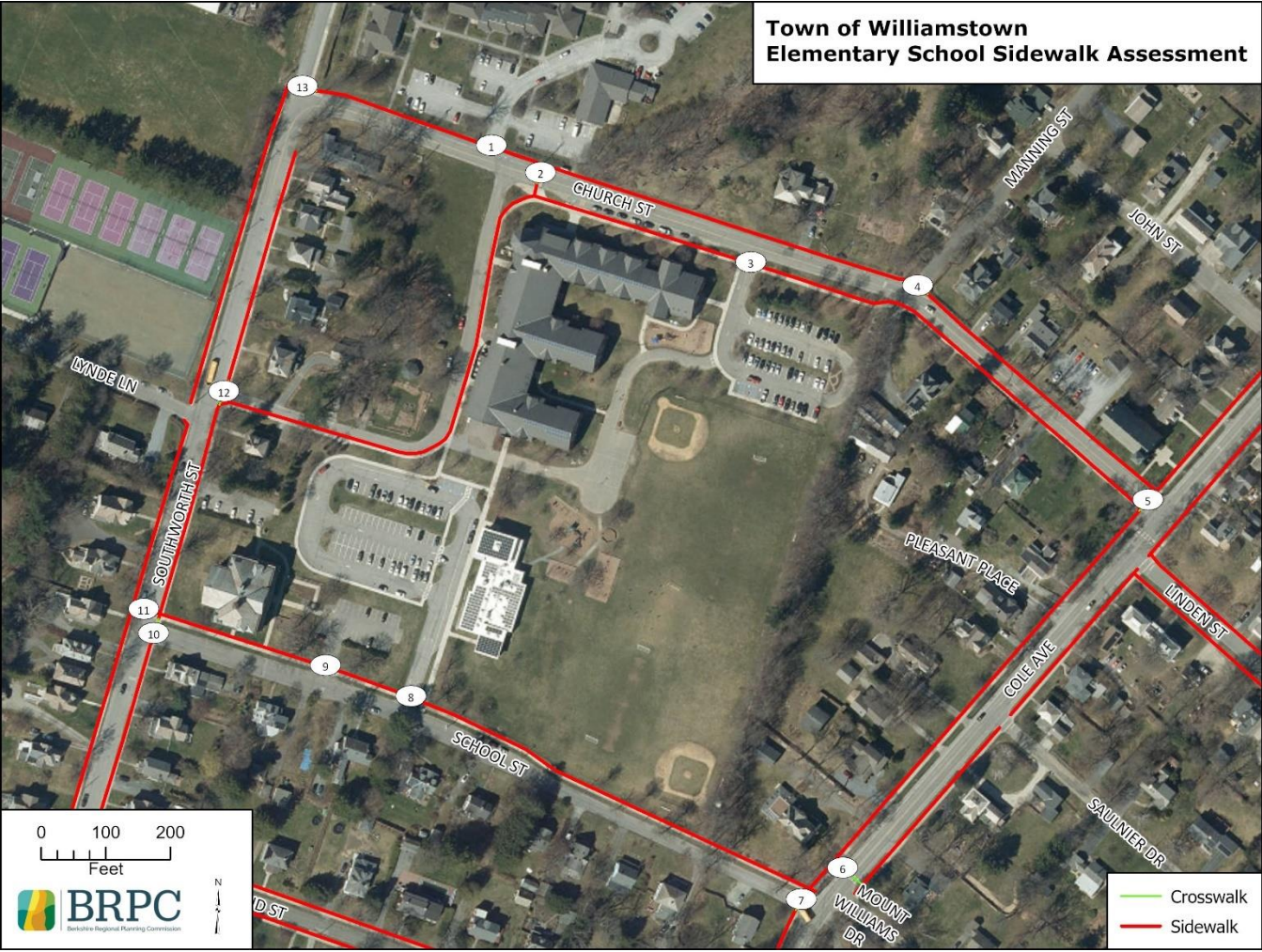
At the intersection of School and Southworth, a crosswalk to access the western side of the street ends. The western side of Southworth does not have a compliant curb cut and the asphalt is significantly deteriorated creating a change in level above $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which is not in compliance with 303.2 of the 2010 ADA Standards or 521 CMR 20.10.

Additionally, the crosswalk on the eastern side of Southworth ends at the intersection with Church and there is no crosswalk for someone to cross. Somebody attempting to travel from the school to the Senior Center along Southworth would have to go over a curb or utilize the apron of a private home's driveway, which is not a curb cut that supports pedestrian mobility, to cross to the others side.

There are 13 total crosswalks in that section. Below is a chart and map below serves as an inventory of the condition of the crosswalk and the presence of any tactile or vibrotactile crossing signals.







Southworth Street ends and there is no accessible way for pedestrians to use the street route to get to the Senior Center.



School, Church, Cole, and Southworth Streets Crosswalk Evaluation

Crosswalk	Detectable Surface	Curb Ramp	Audible and Vibrotactile Signals	Photo
1	No	Non-compliant	No	
2	No	Only one side	No	
3	No	Yes	No	
4	No	Non-compliant	No	
5	No	Yes	No	
6	No	Yes	Push-button lights – no audio or vibrotactile signals	
7	No	Yes	No	
8	No	Yes	No	
9	No	Yes	No	

Evaluation of Sidewalks and Crosswalks

10	One side only	Yes	No	
11	No	One side only, other needs repair	No	
12	No	Needs repair	No	
13	Yes but peeling off the ground creating trip hazard	Yes	No	

Evaluation of Sidewalks and Crosswalks Near the Library

The Library is located in the center of town at the intersections of Route 7 and 2 and North Street. Town hall is located on North Street. The roads circle Field Park and there is a pedestrian walkway through the park connecting the two sides.

The tactile strips in the crosswalks are in significant disrepair. Many appear to have naturally worn and some appear to have been damaged by snow plows. None of the crosswalks meet accessibility guidelines.



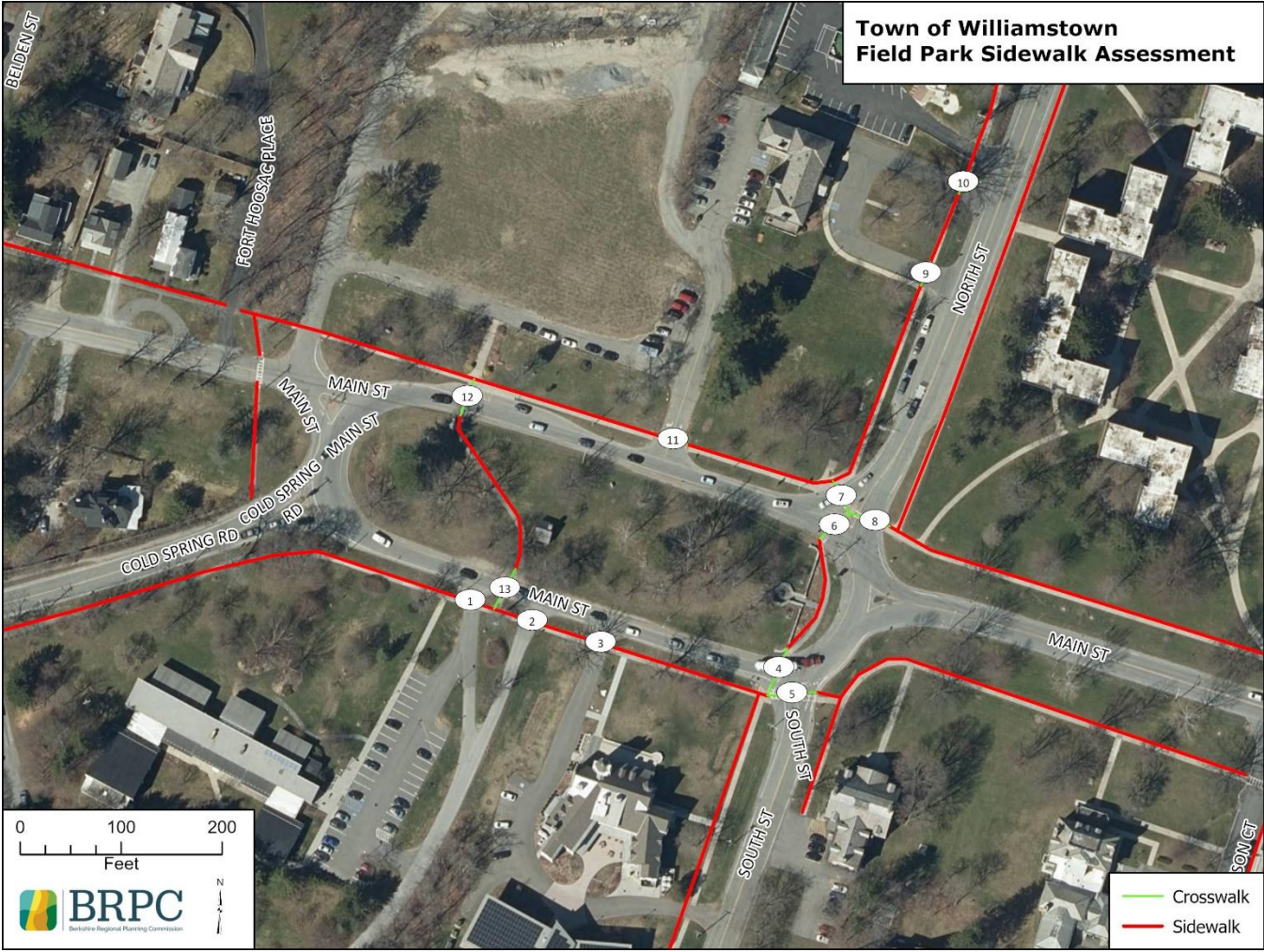
All of the tactile strips are damaged.

The sidewalks in front of the Library are in fair conditions but there are no compliant curb cuts where the sidewalk crosses entrances and exits to parking lots. The eastern portion of the sidewalks, where it connects with downtown, is too steep to go toward Spring Street.










After crossing to North Street and going to town hall, the sidewalks are in fair condition and connect to Town Hall. The sidewalks along Main Street are also in fair condition but the crossings to what is currently a construction project at the former Williams Inn are not compliant with guidelines.

The path through the park is also not compliant because each crosswalk into the park poses changes in levels and the pathway is deteriorating.

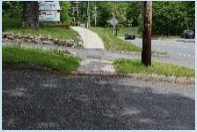



There are 13 total crosswalks along the route. Below is a chart and map below serves as an inventory of the condition of the crosswalk and the presence of any tactile or vibrotactile crossing signals.



Town Hall and Library Crosswalk Evaluation

Crosswalk	Detectable Surface	Curb Ramp	Audible and Vibrotactile Signals	Photo
1	Yes but worn	Non-compliant	No	
2	Yes but worn	Non-compliant	No	
3	Yes but broken and missing pieces	Non-compliant	No	
4	Yes but broken	Non-compliant	No	
5	Yes but peeling off the ground	Yes	No	
6	Yes but peeling off the ground	Yes	No	
7	Yes but peeling off the ground	Yes	No	
8	No	Yes	No	
9	Only one side	No	No	





Evaluation of Sidewalks and Crosswalks





10	One side only and worn	No	No	
11	No – worn	No	No	
12	No – worn	Excessive slope	No	
13	Yes	Only one side	No	

Transition Plan




Location	Barrier	Photo	Federal Standard	MAAB Standard	Solution	Responsibility	Timeframe
Policy	No formal town-wide ADA policy	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adopt a town-wide ADA policy	Board of Selectmen	Staff time
Procedures	Mixed levels of formal training regarding the ADA among staff	N/A	N/A	N/A	Encourage staff working to attend trainings with the Massachusetts Office On Disability and/or New England ADA Center	Town Manager	Staff time
Procedures	ADA SETP needs progress monitoring and updating	N/A	Department of Justice Recommendation	Massachusetts Office on Disability Recommendation	Update ADA to track progress and re-establish goals	Community Development	Staff time

Transition Plan


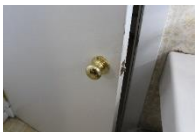

Crosswalks Near WES	No tactile warning pads		PROWAG	N/A (21.11 reserved until further notice)	Install new tactile warning pads at all intersections	DPW	\$200 each X 26 = \$5,200 3 hr. labor each
Crosswalks near Library	No tactile warning pads		PROWAG	N/A (21.11 reserved until further notice)	Install new tactile warning pads at all intersections	DPW	\$200 each X 26 = \$5,200 3 hr. labor each
Church Sidewalk	Significant disrepair, excessive cross slopes, and tripping hazards		401	20.00	Reconstruct sidewalk on Church Street	DPW	\$117 per linear foot X approximately 1,500 feet = \$175,000
Church and School Street Crosswalks	No audible or vibrotactile signals		PROWAG	N/A (21.12 Reserved)	Install accessible pedestrian signals at crosswalk connecting school and Senior Center and at the intersection of Cole and School	DPW	\$55,000

Southworth Street	No connection to Senior Center		PROWAG	N/A (21.12 Reserved)	Install new crosswalk	DPW	\$55,000
Crosswalks Near Library	No audible and vibrotactile signals		PROWAG	N/A (21.12 Reserved)	Install accessible pedestrian signals at all intersections	DPW	\$55,000 per intersection X5 = \$275,000
Town Hall	Accessible parking signs are at an inappropriate height		502.6	23.6.4	Install accessible signs at appropriate height	DPW	\$155
Town Hall	At the intersection between the curb ramp and the asphalt parking lot, there is a change in level above 1/4"		303.2	21.4	Reduce slope of ramp	DPW	\$50 in asphalt to smooth to level and approximately .25 hrs. of labor

Transition Plan

Town Hall	Change in level above ¼ at front door threshold		404.2.5	26.10.1	Replace threshold at door	DPW	\$150 for commercial threshold and material and 4-6 hrs. of skilled labor at \$85 per hour. Total: \$490 - \$660
Town Hall	The front entrance is currently inaccessible		216.6	41.1.2	Install signage directing to accessible entrance	DPW	\$30 for sign
Town Hall	Lack of accessible signage throughout building		216.2 216.8 216.4.1 703.4.2	41.1.1 41.2 41.5	Install appropriate signs throughout the building, including signage pointing to accessible bathrooms, and egress routes	DPW	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign (in-house labor) X20. Total = \$400 plus 10 hours of labor

Transition Plan

Town Hall	There are no audible and visual alarms		702.1	40.2 40.3	Install an audible and visual alarm system.	DPW	Install estimated at \$10 per sq. ft. = \$120,000
Town Hall	Inaccessible door handles are located throughout the building		309.4	26.11	Install lever sets	DPW	New lever sets at approximately \$150 each plus 1 hr. labor per door (presumed in-house labor) X 4 Total = \$600 and 4 hours of labor
Town Hall	Coat hangers throughout the building exceed maximum reach height		308.2.1	30.6.1	Lower coat hooks	DPW	Add new coat hook at \$10 plus .1 hr. of labor





Town Hall	Threshold to the treasure and tax collector's office, and veterans' office exceeds 1/4"		404.2.5	26.10.1	Sand/grind and smooth thresholds for inaccessible offices	DPW	Staff time
Town Hall	The office of community development does not have an accessible counter		904.3.2	35.00	Reconfigure office countertop	DPW	\$6,500
Town Hall	The door to the first-floor accessible bathroom is too heavy		404.2.9	26.8.1	Adjust door closer	DPW	Staff time
Town Hall	Noncompliant sign on bathroom door		703	41	Install appropriate signs	DPW	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.





Transition Plan





Town Hall	Non-compliant door hardware in bathroom stall door		309.4	26.11.1	Install lever sets on bathroom door	DPW	New lever sets at approximately \$150 each plus 1 hr. labor per door
Town Hall	Flush control in accessible bathroom located on incorrect side		604.9.5	30.7.5	Exchange toilet tank	DPW	New tank \$150 or new toilet at \$300 plus 1 hr. of labor.
Town Hall	Toilet paper dispenser in accessible toilet is located too far from the seat		604.9.6	N/A	Relocated toilet paper dispenser	DPW	Staff time
Town Hall	Pipes under sink are exposed		606.5	30.9.5	Insulate pipes	DPW	\$50 plus one hour of staff labor





Town Hall	Coat hangers in bathroom are not located within reach ranges		603.4	6.5	Relocated coat hooks	DPW	Staff time
Town Hall	Inaccessible restrooms do not have signs directing people to the accessible restroom		216.8	41.1.3 (d)	Install appropriate signs	DPW	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.
Town Hall	The fountain spout is too high		602.4	36.4	Install ADA compliant water fountain	DPW	Replace with double unit between \$950 - \$1,100 plus 6 hrs. skilled labor at \$85 per hour
Milne Public Library	Threshold at front entrance exceeds ¼"		404.2.5	26.10.1	Repair threshold at front entrance	Library	\$150 for commercial threshold and material and 4-6 hrs. of skilled labor at \$85 per hour. Total: \$490 - \$660

Transition Plan

Milne Public Library	The permanent rooms do not feature tactile signs, located on the latch side of the door		216.2	41.1.1	Install appropriate signs at all permanent rooms	Library	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.
Milne Public Library	The interior doors feature doorknobs which require "tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist."		309.4	26.11	Install lever sets	Library	New lever sets at approximately \$150 each plus 1 hr. labor per door
Milne Public Library	Door to the accessible bathrooms is too heavy		404.2.9	26.8.1	Adjust door closer	Library	In-house labor
Milne Public Library	The bathroom signs are outside of reach ranges and not located on the latch side of the door		703.4.1 703.4.2	41.2	Relocate signs	Library	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.



Milne Public Library	In the restrooms on the northern side of the building the mirror and paper towel dispenser are outside of reach ranges		603.3 308.2.1	30.11 30.12	Move paper towel dispenser and mirrors in back restrooms	Library	One hour labor
Milne Public Library	The flush control is also located on the wall side of the restroom, which is out of compliance		604.9.5	30.7.5	Install new tank	Library	New tank \$150 or new toilet at \$300 plus 1 hr. of labor.
Milne Public Library	Northern bathrooms in the library are not accessible		Multiple	Multiple	Install a sign directing people to the accessible bathrooms	Library	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.
The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	Only two of the accessible spaces have a sign		506.2	23.6	Install accessible parking signs at all accessible parking spaces	DPW	\$30 sign, \$25 van sign, \$80 post, \$45 post base, plus 1 hr. of labor

The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	Thresholds at both entrances have a change in level above the ¼"		404.2.5	26.10.1	Install new thresholds	DPW	\$150 for commercial threshold and material X2, \$2,500 for tactile mat, and 4-6 hrs. of skilled labor at \$85 per hour X2.
The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	No sign directing to accessible entrance and drop-off area		216.6	41.1.3	Provide signage at the property entrance directing people to the drop-off location on the other side of the building	DPW	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.
The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	The asphalt surfaces in the parking lot and around the building show signs of wear		302.1	22.5	Resurface walkway around building	DPW	\$15 per sq. ft. X approximately 135 sq. ft. = \$2,025.
The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	No signs for permanent spaces		216.2	41.1.1	Install appropriate signage at permanent spaces	DPW	\$20-\$30 per sign from ADA Sign Factory plus .5 hr. of labor per sign.

The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	Mirrors in both restrooms are 48" high, which is above the 40" maximum		603.3	30.11	Lower mirrors	DPW	Staff time
The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	The flush control in the men's accessible stall is located on the wall side of the restroom		604.9.5	30.7.5	Replace tank	DPW	New tank \$150 or new toilet at \$300 plus 1 hr. of labor.
The Harper Center (Council on Aging)	Objects in doorways hinder turning radius		304	26.6	Remove trash cans and other objects from entrance areas, and doorways	DPW	Staff time
Bloedel Park	No accessible route to benches and grills		302.1	19.6.1	Create accessible route	DPW	Dependent on scope and design

Bloedel Park	Less than 5% of tables are accessible		N/A	19.5.1	Install accessible table	DPW	Table between \$1,500 - \$2,000 + 10x6 paved pad \$900 = \$1,900
Broad Brook Park	Parking lot needs repaving		303.2	29.2.1	Repave parking lot	DPW	\$6,000 for pavement, gravel, painting, and labor
Broad Brook Park	No accessible path to elements		302.1 1008.2	19.6.1 19.7	Pave accessible route to elements	DPW	From parking lot to picnic table (45'), from picnic table on least slopped route to playground (135') and along playground surface (32') of modified top X 3-feet side = 636 square feet.




Transition Plan




							<p>50 square feet pad for table to sit on and 50 square feet pad for portable toilet = 100 square feet.</p> <p>Total = 736 square feet X \$15 per square foot installed = \$11,040. (Does not include any regrading)</p>
Broad Brook Park	No accessible parking		208.2 502.6	23.2 23.6	Designate accessible parking with proper lines and signage	DPW	\$30 sign, \$25 van sign, \$80 post, \$45 post base, plus 1 hr. of labor
Broad Brook Park	Excessive slope to park elements		403.3	24.1	Regrade slope and install accessible path	DPW	Dependent on design

Transition Plan

Linear Park	Parking lot is not firm and slip resistant		208.2 502.6	23.2 23.6	Pave parking lot and install appropriate signs and lines	DPW	\$6,000 for pavement, gravel, painting, and labor for one space
Linear Park	No accessible route to tennis court		302.1	19.6.1	Pave accessible route	DPW	50 feet from parking lot to gate X 4 feet wide to match gate = 200 square feet of modified top = \$2,600
Linear Park Picnic Area	Parking lot surface not firm and slip resistant		302.1	29.1	Pave space	DPW	\$6,000 for pavement, gravel, painting, and labor for one space
Linear Park Picnic Area	No accessible parking		208.2 502.6	23.2 23.6	Dedicate accessible parking space	DPW	\$30 sign, \$25 van sign, \$80 post, \$45 post base, plus 1 hr. of labor




Transition Plan

Linear Park Picnic Area	No accessible path to the playground		206.2.2 1008.2	20.2.1 19.7	Install accessible path connecting bridge and sidewalk to the playground and to picnic area, move picnic table and portable toilets onto paved pad near playground	DPW	Approximately 105 ft. from bridge to playground, 45 ft. around playground, 50 ft. to area near rocks, 10X6 paved pad X \$15 per square foot of pavement \$9,900
Linear Park Picnic Area	Trail Requires Use of Stairs		302.1	29.1	No viable solution	DPW	No viable solution
Margaret Lindley	No tactile/Braille signs on the latch side of the door		703	41	Install new signage	DPW	\$20 - \$30

Margaret Lindley Park	Accessible parking signs too low		502.6	23.6.4	Reinstall sign	DPW	\$30 sign, \$25 van sign, \$80 post, \$45 post base, plus 1 hr. of labor
Margaret Lindley Park	No accessible routes to park elements		302.1	19.6.1	Create an accessible route to the elements	DPW	Pave 3 ft. wide route on 200' from parking lot to edge of beach, add pad for portable toilet (10x6), add pad for accessible bench (8x8) = 724 square feet X \$13 per square foot installed + \$9,412
Margaret Lindley Park	No accessible access to the beach		302.1	19.6.1	Install mat or purchase beach wheelchair to provide water access	Parks and Recreation	\$7,500

Margaret Lindley Park	Mirrors in restroom too low		603.3	N/A	Lower mirror	DPW	Staff time
Margaret Lindley Park	Coat hangers too high		603.4	30.6.1	Install new coat racks	DPW	Add new coat hook at \$10 plus .1 hr. of labor
Mount Greylock Regional High School	Accessible parking signs near baseball and softball field too low		502.6	23.6.4	Reinstall signs	School Department	\$30 sign, \$25 van sign, \$80 post, \$45 post base, plus 1 hr. of labor
Mount Hope Park	No accessible parking		208.2 502.6	23.2 23.6	Designate accessible parking with proper lines and signage	DPW	\$6,000 for pavement, gravel, painting, and labor

Transition Plan

Mount Hope Park	No accessible route through the park		302.1	19.6.1	Install accessible path the elements	DPW	\$15 per sq. ft. X 125 sq. ft. (minimum) = \$1,875
Spruces	No accessible route to picnic tables		302.1	19.6.1	Install accessible path (packed gravel most likely to comply with FEMA)	DPW	\$1,000 for the table and \$500 for asphalt pad – ½ hour to install anchor for picnic table
Williamstown Elementary School	Accessible parking signs too low		502.6	23.6.4	Reinstall signs	School Department	\$30 sign, \$25 van sign, \$80 post, \$45 post base, plus 1 hr. of labor

Resources

Organizations		
Organization Name	Phone & Fax	Address
Adaptive Environments http://www.adaptenv.org/	Phone / TTY: (800) 949-4232	374 Congress Street, Suite 310, Boston, MA 02210
American National Standards Institute https://www.ansi.org/	Phone: (202) 293-8020 Fax: (202) 293-9287	1819 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036
The Access Board Federal standards https://www.access-board.gov/ada/	Phone: (202) 272-5434 TTY: (202) 272-5449 Fax: (202) 272-5447	1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111
Massachusetts Architectural Access Board State standards https://www.mass.gov/aab-rules-and-regulations	Phone / TTY: (617) 727-0660 Fax: (617) 727-0665	One Ashburton Place, Room 1310, Boston, MA 02108
Massachusetts Office on Disability https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-office-on-disability	Phone / TTY: (617) 727-7440 or (800) 322-2020	One Ashburton Place, Room 1305, Boston, MA 02108
National Center on Accessibility https://ncaonline.org/	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") https://www.access-board.gov/	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, 101st 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>https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/12/04/Architectural%20Barrier%20Removal.pdf</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 & Grant Program - United States Department of Agriculture</p> <p>https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities</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>https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program</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>https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massability</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>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-ada-improvement-grant-program</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>https://mcoaonline.org/municipal-americans-with-disabilities-act-grant</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>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/trails-for-all#resources</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>https://www.christopherreeve.org/todays-care/get-support/grants-for-non-profits/</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>
<p>The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation Inclusive and Accessible Events Grants Program</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/how-to/the-massachusetts-office-of-outdoor-recreation-inclusive-and-accessible-events-grants-program</p>	<p>The Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) will provide grants of up to \$10,000 to eligible organizations to facilitate new inclusive and/or accessible outdoor recreation events or boost existing outdoor recreation events with new or expanded inclusive and/or accessible components.</p>
<p>Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program</p>	<p>The PARC Program was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. These grants can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or to renovate an existing park. Applications are open to all municipalities that have submitted an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan.</p>

Massachusetts Land and Water
Conservation Fund Grant Program

[https://www.mass.gov/info-
details/massachusetts-land-and-water-
conservation-fund-grant-program](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program)

The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development, and renovation of: Parks, Trails, or Conservation areas. Applications are open to all municipalities that have submitted an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan.