

VISITABILITY

Letter To Developers

1/31/2024 | Version 1.2

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

We are pleased that you are pursuing a development project in Naperville. The community has many excellent amenities to offer residents, businesses, and visitors, and we are proud to be nationally recognized. One of our most significant achievements is our commitment to inclusivity and accessibility to ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefits the community has to offer.

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

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

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

- A zero-step entrance
- Minimum 36" widths for ground-floor doorways and 42" for hallways
- Ground floor bathroom, physically maneuverable by a person in a wheelchair with blocking added to the underlying structure to ease the future installation of grab bars³

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

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

Sincerely,

Naperville Accessible Community Task Force

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

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

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

