



Naperville Senior Task Force ([STF](#))

Housing Design Guidelines

Housing unit design should comply with the 'Visitability' and 'Universal Design' guidelines of the American Association of Retired Persons (reference: [AARP Accessibility Guidelines](#) report). The following checklist is intended for developers to check off included features. The STF will then review and sign the completed list as approved or disapproved.

AARP Home Fit Guidelines

Entrances and Exits:

- Overhang**-for exterior doorways to protect from rain, snow, sun.
- Outdoor lighting**-a safety must, should be placed at a height that doesn't require a ladder to change bulb. Should be some motion sensor lights around entryways.
- Entrance from a hallway or outside**-have a built-in shelf for placing packages while unlocking the door.
- Doorway**-should have a minimum clear-width of 32 inches to allow for wheelchairs and walkers, and a minimum height of 80 inches. If width is tight, door should have swing-away hinges.
- No-step entry from outside to inside**-This would allow for wheelchairs, if needed, in the future. Have at least one step-free entry.
- Peephole**-if door doesn't have a glass panel and there is no window nearby. If height isn't suitable for all users, two peepholes—one for tall residents and the other for short adults, wheelchair users, or children.
- Door lock**-should be separate from door handle and designed so no one can accidentally be locked in or out of the home.
- Lever-style door handle**-easier to use than a doorknob or thumb-latch handle.

- ❑ **Video doorbell**-can often be paired with a smartphone app for remote answering.
- ❑ **Address numbers**-should be visible to help delivery people and first responders locate a residence. Numbers made of shiny, reflective, or glow in the dark material are most visible at night.

General Interiors

- ❑ **Wide hallways**-should be a minimum of 36-42 inches so that everyone and everything moves more easily from room to room.
- ❑ **Extra floor space**-for wheelchair users to have space to turn.
- ❑ **Thresholds that are flush with the floor**-for wheelchairs and walkers to get through a doorway.
- ❑ **Good lighting**-for people with poor vision.
- ❑ **Light switches**-rocker style or slider style placed 42 inches up from the floor and that glow in the dark.
- ❑ **Stairways**-if there are stairs, installed handrails on both sides of the steps.
- ❑ **Light sockets**-installed between 18 - 42 inches from the floor so wheelchair users can plug in electrical cords without difficulty.
- ❑ **One floor living**-if possible; kitchen, bathroom and bedroom should be all on one floor.
- ❑ **Closets**-walk-in closets wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair.
- ❑ **Closets**-should have adjustable hanging rods, adjustable shelves, and ample lighting.

The Kitchen

- ❑ **Workspace**-have at least one workspace you can use while seated.
- ❑ **Kitchen drawers**-with varying depths to maximize space when storing flatware, cooking utensils, dishcloths, bowls, plates, pots and pans.
- ❑ **Kitchen handles and pulls**- “D” shaped handles are easier to grab than knobs.
- ❑ **Cabinet corners**-Turntables in cabinet corners
- ❑ **Lower-level cabinets**-should have pull-out shelves that are easier to see and reach into.

- Dishwasher**-if supplied with living space, is better if elevated to eliminate a lot of bending over.
- Microwave**-at countertop level, not overhead.
- Stove**-controls should be on the front of unit and temporarily lockable in case of small children.
- Faucets**-lever style handles, light touch or sensor are more sanitary than turn style knobs.
- Trash and recyclables**-pull out pails beneath the sink keep these out of sight and out of the way.
- Open shelving**-makes items easier to see, reach, and reshelve after use.
- Task lighting**-above the sink, the stove, and other work areas.

The Bath

- Showers**-should be step-free entry.
- Shower nozzle**-hand held so it can be held or placed at varying height.
- Shower interior**-have a sit down-seat built in.
- Grab bars**-beside toilet and in the shower and be anchored well into the wall.
- Toilet**-should be comfort height.
- Floors, shower stalls, and bathtubs with non-slip surfaces**-helps prevent anyone from falling.
- Wheelchair users**-need a minimum of 5 feet of open space to maneuver into and turn around in a room.
- Lever style faucets**-as in the kitchen
- GFCI electrical outlets**-should be installed anywhere near water.

Total Criteria List—41

Total that will be included in the development _____

Date _____

Signature of Naperville Senior Task Force Member

Name (printed) _____

Date: _____

Signature of Developer

Name (printed) _____

Date: _____