

ADA ACTION PLAN

This Action Plan outlines will assist you in identifying the steps and Resources needed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Of 1990.

Beginning Date: January 9, 2005

Participant's Name: Eunice Torres

Title: Disability Access Coordinator and members of the Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC)

Agency/Dept: Town of Amherst

City: Amherst State: MA Zip: 01002

Telephone #: (413) 259-3079 Fax #: 413-259-2413

1. Background Information To determine Compliance

Yes No

1. Does your local government have more than 50 employees?

Yes

2. Does Your Local government operate a public transit or Para transit service?

No

3. Have you complied with Section 504 to the best of your knowledge?

4. Name of the ADA Coordinator: Eunice Torres

Telephone Number: (413) 259-3079

Local Officials Guide
Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act

11. Coordinator of ADA Compliance

List persons of influence:

Name	Position	Agency/Dept	Date Contacted
<u>Larry Shaffer</u>	<u>Town Manager</u>	<u>Town of Amherst</u>	<u>1/9/06</u>
<u>Gerry Weiss</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Amherst Select Board</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Roy Rosenblatt</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Community Services</u>	<u>1/9/06</u>
<u>Guilford Mooring</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Dept. of Public Works</u>	<u>1/9/06</u>
<u>Jere Hochman</u>	<u>Superintendent</u>	<u>Amherst School District</u>	<u>8/06</u>
<u>Cindy Jones</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Amherst Chamber of Commerce</u>	<u>10/06</u>
<u>Linda Chalfant</u>	<u>Leisure Services Director</u>	<u>Town of Amherst</u>	<u>1/9/06</u>
<u>Epi Bodhi</u>	<u>Health Director</u>	<u>Town of Amherst</u>	<u>1/9/06</u>

111. Disabled Resource Persons who can Assist

Name	Position	Phone #	Date Contacted
<u>Pamela Ledoux</u>	<u>DAAC Chair</u>	<u>(413) 549-5005</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Deb Waldron</u>	<u>Community Member</u>	<u>(413) 549-4359</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Madeline Peters</u>	<u>DAAC Member</u>	<u>(413) 549-5097</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Jean Smyser</u>	<u>DAAC Member</u>	<u>(413) 549-1583</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Dana Goddard</u>	<u>Community Member</u>	<u>(413) 549-1948</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Joe Tringali</u>	<u>Stavros Center</u>	<u>(413)256-0473</u>	<u>8/06</u>
<u>Becky Hurwitz</u>	<u>DAAC Member</u>	<u>(413) 253-3248</u>	<u>1/06</u>
<u>Gerald Weiss</u>	<u>Select Board Liaison</u>	<u>(413-253-2816</u>	<u>1/06</u>

IV. Action Steps

	Exists	Date in Place	Reexamine
1. Self-Evaluation Plan	<u>504/ADA</u>	<u>1982?/in process</u>	<u>1/09</u>
2. Transition Plan	<u>X</u>	<u>1992/in process</u>	<u>1/09</u>
3. Grievance Procedure	<u>X</u>	<u>adopted 1993</u>	<u>1/09</u>
4. Sensitivity Training	<u>X</u>	<u>Planned for spring 2007</u>	
5. Public Notice Procedures	<u>X</u>	<u>4/06</u>	<u>1/09</u>
6. Review of Building/ Code State Statutes	<u>X</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>1/09</u>
7. Auxiliary	<u>TTY's*, large print materials available on request</u>		
8. Review of Employment Policies and practices	<u>Yes</u>	<u>ongoing</u>	

V. Problem Identification (list and check one category)

As a result of completing the self evaluation checklist and/or the transition plan, problem areas were identified and will be summarized in the section provided below.

	Current Problem	Potential Problem
<u>See Attached</u>		

*Telecommunication Device for the Deaf

Amherst Conservation Department
ADA Checklist
August 30, 2006

Completed by: David Ziomek – Director

1. Main Office- 4 Boltwood Walk, Town Hall

The Conservation Department works extensively with many Town boards and committees and our records are accessed regularly by citizens, students, consultants and visitors to Amherst. Conservation shares the second floor of Town Hall with the Planning Department and therefore the two ADA checklists for our offices are similar in many respects. Unlike Planning, the Conservation Department oversees land and building assets throughout Amherst.

Public Access

The Department is responsible for conducting any/all public meetings related to the activities of the Conservation Commission, Farm Committee and Public Shade Tree Committee as well as coordinating inter-departmental public meetings. The Department and Commission oversee all conservation land in Amherst, enforce local and state wetland laws and educate the public about the natural environment in Town. With the exception of field site visits, all meetings take place in Town Hall, the Bangs Community Center or the Hitchcock Center; spaces that meet the basic ADA requirements. The Department is also responsible for maintaining an extensive archive of materials related to the wetlands regulatory process. In recent months, some of these records have been added to the Town of Amherst website including meeting postings, agendas and minutes. Use of the web for public information and outreach will likely increase during the next 2-4 years. At present, the Conservation Commission, Farm Committee and Public Shade Tree committees do not televise their meetings.

Like the Planning Department, Conservation does not currently have access to a TTY machine.

Physical Access

The Conservation Department offices are physically connected to the Planning Department and both spaces meet the basic ADA requirements for physical accessibility in the following categories: parking, building entry, building layout/vertical circulation, signs, rest rooms/drinking fountains/telephones, office access, rooms & spaces and emergency egress. Specifically, the office space occupied by Conservation Department staff is currently undergoing a major reorganization and some access ways have been reduced to 3 feet or less. This situation will be addressed by the planned reorganization.

2. Buildings

- *Field Office- Rt. 63 located at Cherry Hill Golf Course*

The Conservation Department has a small workshop and storage building used primarily by field staff and seasonal employees. The shop is heated and was designed as a place for employees to complete woodworking projects during inclement weather. It includes a small office and enough space to work on conservation vehicles and equipment. There is a very small office in the building but no bathrooms. This is a work station and members of the general public are generally not invited to visit.

The Conservation shop does not currently meet even the basic ADA requirements for accessibility.

ADA Needs

1. Designated parking- 2008
2. Signage- 2008
3. Lighting- 2009
4. Building approach, layout and interior to ADA standards- 2010
5. Restrooms- 2012

Estimated Cost: \$15,000

- *Hitchcock Center for the Environment- 525 South Pleasant Street*

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment (HCE) is a not-for-profit organization that occupies an old converted carriage house owned by the Town at the Larch Hill Conservation Area. HCE has worked collaboratively with Amherst for more than forty years to develop and deliver creative environmental education programs to children, families and schools throughout the region. The Center has planned carefully to create learning and working spaces that are accessible to people with disabilities. HCE has collaborated with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to offer universal access programs for birders. Visitor reception and any/all business takes place on the first floor and the education staff are always

willing to move meetings to make their services more accessible to everyone. The Board of Directors and staff have conducted 2-3 accessibility audits during the past 15 years and have completed many of the recommendations presented in those reports. The Center's two classrooms and restrooms meet the basic ADA requirements as does the walkway leading to the front door. The unpaved parking area creates ADA challenges, especially in winter. The greatest obstacles for HCE in reaching better ADA compliance are the age of the building and lack of adequate access to the second floor.

ADA Needs

1. Paved or equivalent parking lot- 2011
2. Complete outdoor lighting- 2011
3. New signs- 2010
4. Elevator for 2nd floor access- uncertain

Estimated Cost: \$200,000

3. Conservation Land And Trails

Under the guidance of the Conservation Commission, the Department oversees close to 2000 acres of public conservation land including more than 80 miles of trails. Amherst conservation areas include a mosaic of different habitats including wetlands, ponds, streams, fields and upland forests. Trails are found in all parts of Amherst, providing residents and visitors alike with opportunities to walk and cycle through habitats on everything from basic woodland trails to elaborate elevated boardwalks. The Department maintains hundreds of bridges of all shapes and sizes- some made of wood, telephone poles and more complex structures made of steel. Most of these areas provide visitors with basic unimproved parking on grass or dirt. With the exception of those referenced below, none of the Amherst conservation trails would meet ADA requirements.

Given topography, wetlands, stream crossings and other factors it is highly unlikely that many Amherst Trails will ever meet ADA requirements. Instead, it seems prudent to continually assess where new trails might be added to make other conservation lands accessible.

ADA Needs

1. Full assessment of possible new accessible trails- Amethyst Brook, Gull Pond and Wentworth Farm- 2007
2. Designation of accessible trails/opportunities on all Town outreach materials including conservation maps, guides and web sites- 2007

Estimated Cost: \$2500

- *Puffer's Pond*

The Puffer's Pond Conservation Area is a lovely place that provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife while also functioning as a swimming area during the summer months. Fishing, canoeing and kayaking are also allowed. Puffers currently offers two parking spaces for users with disabilities. Recent ADA related improvements have included the addition of a paved trail, fishing access and a railing to the water's edge. There are currently no sanitary facilities at the Puffer's Pond.

ADA Needs

1. Additional parking spaces- 2007
2. Improved signs- 2007
3. Accessible bathroom facilities- uncertain
4. Expansion of ADA trail- 2009
5. Possible collaboration with other groups to provide universal access programs and opportunities (canoes/kayaks, etc.)- 2008
6. Improvements to waterfront to allow better access- 2008
7. Accessible benches and picnic tables- 2008

Estimated Cost: \$25,000 (not including bathrooms)

- *Kevin Flood Memorial Trail*

The Kevin Flood Trail parallels the Cushman Brook above Puffer's Pond and was designed to provide visually impaired people with a safe environment to walk and enjoy the outdoors. A series of posts with a connecting guide rope follows the trail approximately 1/8 mile into the upland forest before terminating at a large bridge over the brook.

ADA Needs

1. Improvement to existing parking area- 2008
2. Installation of new kiosk-2008
3. Signs- 2008
4. Reworking of the surface of the trail-2008
5. Extend the trail east of the Cushman Brook-2011

Estimated Cost: \$35,000

- *Larch Hill*

The Larch Hill Conservation Area contains approximately 30 acres of upland forest with extensive wetlands and at least three ponds. This is the main teaching site for the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. During the past 15 years the Town of Amherst and HCE have successfully created a series of accessible trails on Larch Hill which include raised boardwalks, bridges and crushed stone (TRG) paths. Amherst was recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to help expand the trails at Larch Hill and that work has been ongoing during summer 2006.

ADA Needs

1. Consider new surface for parking area- 2011 (see HCE above)
2. Improved signs- 2010
3. Addition of accessible viewing platform for wildlife viewing- 2009

Estimated Cost: \$15,000 (does not include paving)

- *Orchard Arboretum*

The Orchard Arboretum is a small conservation area located just south of the Applewood Retirement Community off of Bay Road. For many years members of the Orchard Arboretum Committee have raised private funds to improve and expand the plantings in the gardens while committing to making the area more accessible. In spring 2006 a paved walkway was added to the grounds, making passage easier for all visitors to enjoy this beautiful area.

ADA Needs

1. Designated parking- 2007
2. Additional signage- 2007
3. Accessible benches and picnic tables- 2007

Estimated Cost: \$1000

**Note: Dates after entrees in sections on ADA Needs indicate approximate timeframe for implementation. Ultimately, implementation will depend on funding and staffing.*

**TOWN OF AMHERST LEISURE SERVICES AND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION
ADA CHECKLISTS**

INCLUDES:

- **COMMUNITY FIELD/WAR MEMORIAL POOL**
- **MILL RIVER RECREATION AREA**
- **GROFF PARK**
- **KIWANIS PARK**
- **NORTH AMHERST FIELD (ADJACENT TO THE SURVIVAL CENTER)**
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL POOL**
- **PLUM BROOK RECREATION AREA**
- **CHERRY HILL GOLF COURSE**
- **LSSE OFFICE**
- **LSSE PROGRAM LOCATIONS**
- **LSSE PROGRAM POLICIES**

COMMUNITY FIELD/WAR MEMORIAL POOL

1. PLAYGROUND AREA WITH SWINGS

- The area has a wheelchair accessible route that connects all of the ground components. This play area needs additional safety surfacing as what is there has decomposed.

Accessibility Modifications- Adding additional accessible safety surfacing is a routine maintenance objective. Cost estimate- \$2,500 every three years.

2. SLIDE AREA

- This area has an accessible route, but the equipment is not accessible.

Accessibility Modifications-Add one ground level play component. Cost estimate-\$1,600

3. WADING POOL

- The wading pool requires a sloped access.

Accessibility Modifications- Add a custom designed pool access ramp. Cost estimate- \$1,750.

- The area also requires an accessible route for maintenance. The fenced area around the maintenance shed is too small for a wheel chair to turn in and the gate is less than 36" wide.

Accessibility Modifications- Excavate around the grassy bank in order to provide greater clearance, reseed, possible retaining wall needed. Pave a pathway to the maintenance shed. Cost estimate-\$3,000- 8,000.

4. BASKETBALL COURT

- There is an accessible route to the basketball court. The court needs to be resurfaced for overall safety provisions as large cracks would contribute to tripping, falls etc.

Accessibility Modification- Resurface 1 full size Basketball Court-cost estimate \$23,000.

5. ROUTES TO FIELDS

- The fields lack an accessible route.

Accessibility Modifications- 1st step requires a design with specifications that will create routes that would enter/exit the field from three directions. Cost estimate for design- \$7,000.

6. PARKING

- The number of handicapped accessible parking spaces comply with required regulations. There is no 5' access or sign denoting the International Symbol of Accessibility.

Accessibility Modifications- Add a sign. Cost estimate- \$65.

7. TABLES

- The picnic tables do not meet the accessibility requirements.
Accessibility Modifications- Add 2 accessible 8' picnic tables. Cost estimate- \$2040.

8. ROUTES TO POOL/PLAYGROUND

- The routes are accessible, except to the Triangle Street entrance and bathrooms. The path up the hill is too steep (it is 85' long and raises a total of about 18'). There is funding in place to have the Field Restrooms renovated which may require relocation. Accessibility will be addressed at that time.

9. POOL

- The pool meets the accessibility standards for a pool of its size. It is equipped with a Hoyer Lift. The concrete deck around the pool is in need of a complete resurfacing. It is cracking and uneven.
Accessibility Modifications- Resurface the concrete deck to eliminate the uneven condition. Cost estimate- \$20,000.

10. POOL BUILDING

- Entrances to the building and doors within are accessible. Some doors require handles that are operable with a closed fist. Benches (in showers or otherwise) are the correct height. The changing rooms have grab-bars that meet accessibility standards. The bathroom stalls do not have a full 5' X 5' area clear of the doors, but they do provide greater accessibility than a typical stall (they are equipped with grab-bars). The sinks are also accessible. The drinking fountains are not accessible. There is appropriate signage bearing the universal symbol for accessibility, but it is not in Braille (though the characters are raised).
Accessibility Modifications- Replace the 2 drinking fountains. Cost estimate- \$2,800. New hardware and signage- \$1000.

MILL RIVER RECREATION AREA

1. PARKING

- The parking lot meets the ADA standards and includes the one van accessible space.

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2. BASKETBALL COURTS

- The basketball courts meet the ADA standards for accessibility.

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3. TENNIS COURTS

- The tennis courts meet the ADA standards for accessibility.

4. ROUTES

- The existing routes are accessible. The slope of the ramps connecting the accessible public bathrooms to the route must be rechecked for possible

noncompliance. There is no accessible route connecting the baseball fields to the rest of the park areas. Likewise, there are no routes that connect the swing area or the picnic areas to anything within the park. All of the areas covered by safety surfacing should be replenished with additional surfacing as much of it has decomposed. The current safety surfacing (mulch) is accessible. The playground resurfacing is scheduled to occur in FY 07 and the funding is available.

Accessibility Modifications-Add accessible pathways that connect the fields to other areas. Depending on material used, the cost for this could vary widely.

Cost estimate- for 6' wide x 1,275' long area of accessible bark mulch- \$800 or accessible rubber mats 4' x 6' x 1,275' total cost- \$9126.

5. PLAY GROUND AREA FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

- This play area complies with the ADA standards for accessible play areas.

6. PLAY AREA FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- This play area complies with the ADA standards for accessible play areas. The accessible route requires repair and/or resurfacing.

Accessibility Modifications- Patching the current asphalt is needed in places.

Adding safety surfacing mulch to the areas around all playgrounds is a routine maintenance item. Cost estimate for patching and the addition of accessible safety surfacing-\$3,500 every three years.

7. PAVILLION

- The pavilion is accessible; tables can be rearranged to provide compliance with standards.
- The picnic tables do not meet the ADA standards for tables. The larger picnic tables are tall enough, but not wide or deep enough.

Accessibility Modifications- Add ten handicap accessible picnic tables. Cost estimate for 8' tables - \$10,200.

8. POOL

- The pool meets the accessibility requirements for a pool of its size. A Hoyer Lift is available at this site.

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9. POOL BUILDING

- The entrance to the building and the doors within are accessible. Some doors require handles operable with a closed fist. The accessible changing stalls meet the ADA standards; accessible stalls provide greater accessibility than a regular stall. The Boys changing area needs to have an accessible dressing stall added. The drinking fountains are not accessible. Accessible signage is needed on restroom doors at a minimum.

Accessibility Modifications- Add two handicap accessible drinking fountains.

Cost estimate- \$2,800. Add an accessible changing stall in the boys locker room, replace some door handle hardware, signage- \$4,000.

GROFF PARK

1. PARKING

- The parking lot contains 3 accessible spaces including one van accessible space.

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2. ROUTES

- There are a lack of accessible routes connecting any of the areas (Baseball fields, play areas, pavilion, and wading pool). The slope of the hill is especially problematic (it is very steep). Attention should also be given to the slope of the hill leading to the Baseball/Softball/Football fields. To remedy this, a route should be created of the appropriate width, surface, and slope that connect all the elements.

Accessibility Modifications-Provide design and engineering funds to determine the appropriate routes because of the extreme grades. Cost estimate for design for entire park. \$15,000

3. TABLES

- The picnic tables do not meet the ADA standards for tables.

Accessibility Modifications-Add 7 handicap accessible 8' picnic tables. Cost estimate- \$7,140.

4. LARGE PLAYGROUND AREA/SMALL PLAYGROUND AREA

- The large play area complies with ADA standards, but has no accessible route connecting it to the other areas.
- The large play area was recently resurfaced, but it needs to be routinely raked and leveled.
- The lower small play area does not have any accessible play equipment

Accessibility Modification- Add one accessible ground component to the small playground. Cost estimate-\$1,600.

5. RESTROOMS

- There is one accessible portable toilet. There appears to be no sign designating it as such, however this is an interim measure as a new accessible restroom is currently under construction and funds have been secured.

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6. WADING POOL

- The wading pool requires a sloped access.

Accessibility Modifications- A sloped access ramp is needed however, long term goals for this water feature include replacing the wading pool with a spray pool which would be fully accessible. Cost estimate for a ramp – \$1,750

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7. LOWER AREAS

- The lower areas (pavilion, sandbox, and the small play area) require an accessible route connecting them. The pavilion should be resurfaced.

Accessibility Modifications- See note above to provide design funds to master plan all routes.

8. FIELDS

- The fields require an accessible route.
Accessibility Modifications-Provide design funds to master plan all routes.

9. TELEPHONES

- There is one public telephone. It cannot be accessed by a wheelchair.
Accessibility Modifications- Provide a pathway to the telephone. This would fall under the design funds for the master plan for all routes.

KIWANIS FIELD

1. PARKING

- The parking lot meets the ADA standards.

2. FIELDS

- The fields are not accessible. There is no accessible route connecting the sports fields. The seating would be accessible if an accessible route were created.
Accessibility Modifications- Provide an accessible route. Cost estimates will vary depending on the material used. To create a pathway that was 6' wide and 750' long with safety surfacing mulch- \$550. If using 4' x 6' rubber mats, cost estimate-\$5,408.

3. RESTROOMS

- There are no permanent restrooms available except for portable facilities.
Accessibility Modifications- Build permanent restrooms to replace portable facilities. Cost estimate- \$140,000.

NORTH AMHERST FIELD

1. PARKING

- There is no accessible parking (only on-street parking). (There is some potentially shared parking in the building that houses the Survival Center.)
Accessibility Modifications-Because of the slopes and proximity to the road, the best solution for this park might be to designate with signage some handicap parking as a part of the current Survival Center shared parking lot and to create an accessible route to the fields. Because of the slope some engineering design work will be required for the route/slope. Cost estimate- \$7,000 for signs and design.

2. ROUTES

- There is no accessible route.
Accessibility Modifications- This modification would be the same as above.

MIDDLE SCHOOL POOL

1. ACCESS TO POOL AREA

- The ramp from the parking lot to the pool building is in need of resurfacing and repair. The surface is very uneven.
- There is an accessible elevator that is used to reach the pool area from the Middle School Lobby instead of the stairs.

2. POOL

- The deck area complies with the ADA standards. The area is not surfaced in a non-slip surfacing.
- Pool entry meets accessible guidelines. A Hoyer Lift is available.
- There is space for a wheelchair at the end of the bleachers and they meet the height standards.

3. LOCKER ROOMS/RESTROOMS

- The Boys changing area meets the accessibility guidelines except that the accessible bathroom stall does not provide enough accessibility (there is not enough room to pivot a wheelchair in the stall). There is also a lack of available accessible showers in the Boy's area. Also, there is some signage, but it is inadequate.
- The Girls changing area has no accessible bathroom stall. Also, there is a 6" protrusion in the hall that directly connects the Girls changing area and the Pool Area. This protrusion needs to be removed so that a wheelchair could maneuver through. There are also no showers accessible to the public in the Girl's area. These showers are only accessible from the Physical Education Teacher's Office. The Girls changing area has a lack of proper signage as well. There is no handicap accessible bathroom in the Girl's Locker Room.

PLUM BROOK RECREATION AREA

1. PARKING

The proposed paved parking lot will meet the ADA standards as per parking spaces.

2. RESTROOMS

Permanent restrooms are not a part of this phase of the project and are not required. Handicap accessible portable restrooms will be brought in when needed.

Possible Accessibility Modifications-A new handicap accessible restroom to replace portable restrooms. Cost Estimate- \$180,000.

3. FIELDS/ROUTES

The slope from the accessible parking lot to the fields meets the handicap accessible requirement of 1:12. The entryway from the parking lot to the fields will be of an accessible material. Routes to the fields will require that an accessible pathway be constructed. Fields themselves are not required to be accessible as per the United States Access Board, Accessible Sports Facilities publication, June 2003, page 8. **“For example, an accessible route is required to connect to the boundary of a soccer field, but there is no requirement to change the surface of a field to an accessible surface.”**

Accessibility Modifications- any number of products could provide route accessibility. The perimeter of all fields is approximately 2,414 feet. Privacy Long Life Lattice retails for \$20 per section (4' x 8') for an approximate cost of \$6040. Accessible safety surfacing that's 6' wide x 2,414' long- \$1,037.35. Other rubber mats available include 4' x 6' mats that would cover this area and sell for \$17,069. Other products may be more suitable and engineering and design work will be needed to determine best product.

CHERRY HILL GOLF COURSE

1. PARKING

There are no designated handicap parking spaces.

Access Modifications-Designate handicap parking spaces with appropriate signs. Cost estimate-\$250.

2. CLUBHOUSE

There is a handicap accessible ramp allowing access to the Cherry Hill Club House.

3. RESTROOMS

The Club House Restrooms are accessible. Accessible signage is need. *Access Modifications- Provide tactile signs on restroom doors. Cost estimate pending.*

4. COURSE ACCESS

There are no handicap accessible golf carts available.

Access Modifications-Provide handicap accessible golf carts. Cost estimates will vary depending on the style of cart chosen- \$3,700 per cart and up.

LSSE OFFICE

1. REGISTRATION AREA

There is a handicap accessible counter that is available for individuals in wheel chairs. This area often becomes partially blocked with files, notebooks, etc.

Accessibility Modification- Provide a small shelving unit on the wall to facilitate some of the overflow that's covering the accessible counter. Cost estimate- \$125.

2. STAFF OFFICES

These areas often have overflow sports, playground, aquatics, community theater, field maintenance, camp program, special events etc. equipment and supplies blocking the offices and routes to the offices due to insufficient storage space. This extreme need exists, even though some off site storage locations are currently utilized.

Accessibility Modification- Build or purchase a number or one central additional storage facilities at parks, recreation area, school, the Bangs Community Center, etc. Cost estimate- \$160,000.

LSSE PROGRAM LOCATIONS

1. INACCESSIBLE NON TOWN BUILDINGS

Some inaccessible non town buildings are used for youth and adult education programs. The variety and number of activities often necessitates the use of these additional areas and parking, restroom and pathway issues often apply.

Accessibility Modifications- Plan for and build a full scale recreation center that can accommodate all recreation needs under one roof. Cost estimate-8- 10 million. In the interim we will strive to hold additional youth and adult classes in Town buildings that are accessible or in private businesses that provide accessibility.

LSSE PROGRAM POLICIES

1. SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE BUDGET

Special Needs Funding for One on One Assistance-LSSE provides one-on-one assistance for recreational programs when requested. This could include areas such as providing an extra camp counselor for a summer camper or providing a sign language interpreter for a supplemental education class. This important tax supported budget is often inadequately funded for the need

Access Modification-Increase the size of this budget in order to meet all requested needs. Cost estimate- \$10,000.

2. TRAINING

Staff is routinely trained in ADA regulations on the part time level for many of our programs- aquatics, summer camps, after school, however, many of our volunteer led programs could benefit from this training. Also there is a continuing need to provide updated training for full time staff at all levels.

Access Modification- Increase the number of opportunities available for full time staff, part time staff and volunteer training in the area of Special Needs. Cost estimate- \$3,500.

Based on "Checklist for Existing Facilities version 2.1; The Americans with Disabilities Act Checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal, August 1995"

DISABILITY ACCESS TRANSITION PLAN

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 2006 UPDATED

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Goals of the Town of Amherst with Regards to Its Disabled Citizens

- I. Goals of the Town of Amherst with regards to its Disabled Citizens
 1. To make all public facilities and ways and means under the control of the Town of Amherst accessible to persons with disabilities.
 2. To provide equal access to all public programs and services, including, but not limited to, employment, education, housing, transportation, culture, recreation, technology, and public citizenship.
 3. To promote the removal of architectural barriers that inhibit independent activity by Persons with disabilities in the private sector (including Amherst College and Hampshire College, as well as commercial and professional facilities in Town) and in the public sector(including the University of Massachusetts, county, state and federal facilities in Town).

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Town of Amherst is committed to developing a policy that supports the independence and social integration of its citizens with disabilities. At present there are many physically restrictive situations in Amherst which exclude individuals with disabilities from participating in the mainstream of community life. Removal of barriers to these individuals will aid not only members of the community with disabilities, but also the elderly, bicyclists, people with carriages and strollers and those who are temporarily disabled by an illness or injury.

This document is the Town of Amherst's Disability Access Transition Plan, updated in accordance with federal regulations implementing section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973 which states that:

No otherwise qualified disabled individual in the United States shall solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in be denied the benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Since the Town of Amherst receives federal financial assistance for a variety of public facilities and programs, it is therefore bound by the regulations which implement Section 504. One of the requirements set forth in these regulations is preparation of a "Transition Plan" which should:

- 1) Identify physical obstacles in Town facilities that presently limit accessibility of its services or benefits to people with disabilities.
- 2) Describe, in detail, steps to be taken to make these facilities or programs accessible.
- 3) Specify a schedule for making these changes.
- 4) Assign a person to be responsible for implementing the Plan

This Disability Access Transition Plan fulfills all of the above requirements. The priorities listed in the inventory section is a continuation in scheduling these projects.

see section III. Numbers of people with disabilities

see section VI. Legal requirements, subsection A. Federal

Inventory

V. Inventory

This portion of the Transition Plan lists architectural barriers in Town owned and Town controlled facilities, tells which groups of disabled people are affected by each barrier, give at least one potential solution for each problem and, on a scale of 1 to 4, assigns each item a priority. The priority designations will aid the planning Staff and other Town officials in scheduling the projects listed here.

Groups of people who may be affected by the problems listed in the inventory:

Group 1 – People who use wheelchairs

Group 2 – People who uses crutches, canes, braces

Group 3 – People who are frail or who have coordination problems

Group 4 - People who are blind or who have severe visual impairments

Group 5 – People who are def or who have severe hearing problems

Priorities for items listed in Inventory: (see Section IX and X of text for explanation of priorities)

Priority 1 – vital

Priority 2 – important

Priority 3 – desirable

Priority 4 – marginal

Location – Conservation and Recreation Areas

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Mill River Recreation Area			
-the ramps connecting the accessible public bathrooms are not in compliance	1	-install ramps that meet ADA standards	3
-no accessible route connecting the baseball fields to the rest of the park area	1	-install accessible pathways to connect the baseball field to the rest of the park	3
-no accessible routes connecting the swing area to the picnic areas to anything within the park	1	-install accessible pathways to connect the swing area to the picnic area and all other areas within the park	3
-no areas are covered by safety surfaces (playgrounds)	1,2,3,	-install accessible rubber mats	1
-no sign system for blind people	4	-install tactile sign in all areas	2
-pavilion/picnic area, picnic tables do not meet ADA standards	1	-add accessible picnic tables	2
-pool building doors handles do not meet requirements	1,2,3,4,5	-change door knobs to levers	2
-boy's area does not have an accessible dressing stall	1	-install an accessible dressing	3
-drinking fountains are not accessible	1	-install accessible drinking fountains	3

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Groff Park			
-lack of accessibility connecting any (baseball fields, play areas, Pavilion, and wading Pool). The slopes of the hill is especially programmatic (it is very steep) Attention should also be given to the slope of the hill leading to the Baseball/Softball/Football fields. To remedy this, a route should be created of the appropriate width, surface, slope that connects all the elements.	1	-provide design and engineering funds to determine the appropriate routes because of the extreme grade	4
-picnic tables are not access	1	-add accessible picnic tables	3
-large play area has no accessible route connecting it to other areas.	1	-install an accessible route connecting the play area to all other area	3
-the lower small play area does not have any accessible play equipment	1	-add accessible play equipment	3
-no permanent bathrooms available	1,2,3,4,5	-install an accessible bathroom	3
-no visual signage	4	-install tactile signage	3
-the wading pool requires a sloped access	1	-replace the wading pool with a spray pool	3
-the lower areas (pavilion, sandbox, and play area) has no accessible route	1	-the pavilion should be resurfaced and accessible routes install to connecting areas	3
-fields have not connecting routes	1	-install connecting accessible routes	3
-public telephone no accessible	1,4	-provide an accessible pathway to the telephone make sure it is TTD accessible	3

Problems	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Kiwanis Field			
-fields are not accessible	1	-create an accessible route	3
-no permanent bathrooms	1,2,3,4,5	-install an accessible permanent bathroom	3
North Amherst Field			
-no accessible parking	1,2	-designate accessible parking in an area near field	3
-no accessible route	1	-create an accessible route	3
Middle School Pool			
-ramp from parking lot to the pool is in need of resurfacing and repair	1,2	-install new ramp and resurface the area	3
-pool area no surfaces in a non-slip surfacing	1,2,3,4,5	-surface the area in a non-slip surfacing material	3
-the boys accessible bathroom stall do not meet ADA requirements	1	-install an accessible stall to meet ADA requirement	3
-no accessible shower area in the boys room	1	-create an accessible shower area in the boys room	3
-inadequate signage	4	-install tactile sign system	3
-no accessible bathroom stall in the girls changing area	1	-install an accessible bathroom stall	3
-there is a 6" protrusion in the hall that directly connects the girl's changing area and the pool area	1	-remove the protrusion so that the girl's changing area becomes wheelchair accessible	3
-no accessible public showers in the girl's area. The shower can only be accessible from the Physical Education Teacher's Office	1	-create accessible public showers relocate the Physical Education Teacher's Office	3

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Middle School Pool (continued)			
-inadequate signage	4	-install tactile signage system	3
-no accessible bathroom in the girl's locker room	1	-install an accessible bathroom in the girls' locker room	3
Plum Brook Recreation Area			
-no permanent accessible bathrooms	1	-install permanent accessible bathrooms	4
-no accessible pathways to fields	1	-construct accessible pathways to fields	4
-the entry way from the parking lot to the field needs accessible materials	1	-install accessible material	4
Cherry Hill Golf Course			
-no designated handicapped parking spaces	1	-designate handicapped parking spaces with appropriate signage	1
-no accessible signage	4	-install tactile signage system	3
-no handicap accessible golf carts available	1,2,3	-purchase accessible golf carts	2
Community Field / Memorial Pool			
-bathroom not accessible	1,2,3	-funding is in place to have bath rooms renovated which may require relocation (accessibility will be addressed at that time)	1
-play area needs safety surfacing	1,2,3,4,5	install new safety surfacing Disability Access Transition Plan	3
-slide area has no accessible play equipment	1	-purchase accessible equipment	4

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Community Field / Memorial Pool (continued)			
-wading pool not accessible	1	-install a custom accessible ramp	4
-no accessible route for maintenance (the fenced area around the maintenance shed is too small for a wheelchair to turn in and the gate is less than 36" wide)	1	-excavate around the grassy bank in order to provide clearance, reseed, possible retaining wall needed. Pave a pathway to the maintenance shed.	4
-basketball court needs safety resurfacing (large cracks)	1,2,3,4,5	-resurface basketball courts	4
-no accessible routes to fields	1	-create routes that will enter/exit the field from three directions. (require designs with specifications)	4
-no access sign denoting the International Symbol of accessibility	1	-create the access International Symbol for Accessibility	1
-picnic tables do not meet accessibility requirements	1	-purchase accessible picnic tables	1
-routes are not accessible at the Triangle Street entrance	1	-creating an accessible route might not be possible since the path up the hill is steep and it is 85" long raises a total of about 18"	4
-the deck around the pool is in need of replacing and resurfacing (cracked and uneven)	1,2,3,4,5	-remove and replace the concrete deck and resurface with safety materials	4
-doors knobs are not accessible	1,2,3,4,5	-replace doorknobs with levers	3
-bathroom stalls do not meet accessibility requirements	1,2,3,4,5	make appropriate corrections to Disability Access Transition Plan to meet ADA standards	4
-drinking fountains are not accessible	1	-install accessible drinking fountains	1

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
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Community Field / Memorial Pool (continued)

-no appropriate signage		-install tactile signage system	2
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Hitchcock Center

-unpaved parking lot	1	-install paved parking lot	4
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-no outdoor lighting	1,2,3,4,5	-install outdoor lighting	4
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-no signage	4	install tactile signage system	4
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-stairs to second floor	1	install elevator for access to second floor	4
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ADA Needs

- i. Full assessment of possible new accessible trails- Amethyst Brook, Gull Pond, and Wentworth Farm- priority -4
- ii. Designation of accessible trails/opportunities of all Town outreach materials including conservation maps, guide and web sites – priority-4

Puffer’s Pond

-no accessible parking	1	-designate accessible parking	1
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-no signage	1,2,3,4,5	-install tactile signage system Disability Access Transition Plan	2
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-no accessible bathrooms	1	-install accessible bathrooms	4
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-few ADA trails	1	expansion of ADA trails	4
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-no universal access programs and opportunity	1	-collaborate with other groups to provide universal access programs and opportunities (canoes/kayaks, etc.)	4
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-water front not accessible	1	-improve waterfront for better access	3
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-no accessible benches and picnic tables	1	install accessible picnic tables	3
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Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Kevin Flood Trail (Designed to provide visuallyimpaired people with a safe environment)			
-parking area	4	-improvement to existing parking	3
-needs new kiosk	4	-install new kiosk	3
-surface of trails need reworking	4	-reworking the surface of the trails	3
-need longer trails	4	-extend trails east on the Cushman Brook	4
Larch Hill			
-parking area need re-surfacing	1,2	-resurface the parking area	4
-need signage	4	-install tactile signage system	4
-not enough accessible viewing platforms	1	-install additional viewing platforms for viewing wildlife	3
Orchard Arboretum			
-no designated parking	1	-designate accessible parking	2
-not enough signage	4	-install tactile signage system	2
-no benches and picnic picnic tables	1	-install accessible benches and	2
Bangs Community Center			
-elevator needs upgrade to meet ADA requirements	1,2,3,4,5	-upgrade elevator to meet to meet ADA requirements	1
-no signage	1,2,3,4,5	-install tactile signage system	1
-door openers need replacing by LSSE, south entrance, the men's room, and ladies room on all floors	1,2,3,4,5	-replace door openers by LSSE, south entrance the men's room and the ladies room on all floors	1

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Bangs Center (continued)			
-bathrooms need remodeling to provide full accessibility	1,2,3,4,5	-remodel bath rooms to -to provide full accessibility	1
-no changing tables for Infants in all bathrooms	1,2,3,4,5	-add changing tables for in all bathrooms	1
-no functioning TTY machines in building	5	-install functioning TTY machines	1
-the floor levels between the Ceramic tile hallway outside the main door to the senior Center and the carpeted floor in the lounge area, presents an unsafe bump for people who uses wheelchairs or walkers		-correct the floor level where possible to provide safe use for wheelchairs, and for people who uses walkers	1
-the main entrance to the Senior Center is blocked by the reception desk prohibiting access for wheel chair users. The reception desk has a tall front that is a visual barrier for a person in a wheelchair. The door way is not wide enough to accommodate more than one person	1,2,	-move the reception desk back add an accessible partition for wheelchair users -lower the top to the reception desk to provide visual access to the wheelchair user -widen the doorway to accommodate more than one person	1
-access to back offices is difficult for wheelchairs or people who uses walkers because of bookcases, and storage materials constrict passage ways.	1,2	-remove book cases and storage materials that restrict passage ways for wheelchairs or people who uses walkers Disability Access Transition Plan	1
-the passage way from the lounge through the kitchen area to the gallery is difficult for wheel chair users because of the size of the table that is used for work/writing for staff and elder lunches	1,2	-provide a table that is smaller so as not to constrict the aisle	1

Problem	Group Affected	Potential Solution	Priority
Bangs Center (continued)			
-bump leaving the lounge going into the kitchen area that is difficult for wheelchair or for people who uses walkers	1,2	-remove the bump if possible by repairing the tiles or adding new ones	1
-doors in the Garrabrants Room are difficult to open/close because they stick and could cause a person with limited physical strength or a disability to become stuck in the room	1,2	-make repairs so that the doors no longer stick	1