

Southampton Town Disability Advisory Committee

MISSION STATEMENT is to advise assist and support the Town of Southampton in its intention to obtain maximum feasible integration of those covered by the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act and related laws in the overall life of the community as it continues to orient the Town toward the enjoyment of full civil rights by all who live, work, and visit Southampton.

We hope that the thousands of mobility challenged will no longer experience isolation, rejection, and vulnerability to accidents, and will find new freedom through the total accessibility of **UNIVERSAL DESIGN**. With **UNIVERSAL DESIGN/BASIC ACCESS** the inaccessible becomes accessible, and where barriers once existed, open pathways and easy access allows others to lead a life approaching normalcy.

SEVEN TENETS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use

Thanks to the North Carolina State University Center for **UNIVERSAL DESIGN** for their extensive research and generosity with their findings.

<http://design.ncsu.edu>

Additional resources: www.homemattersamerica.com/designchallengetoolkit/,
www.adaptiveenvironments.org, www.ap.buffalo.edu, www.wheelchairnet.org

TOWN BOARD

Jay Schneiderman, Supervisor

John Bouvier, Councilman • Christine P Scalera, Councilwoman

Julie Lofstad, Councilwoman • Tommy John Schiavoni, Councilman

TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON

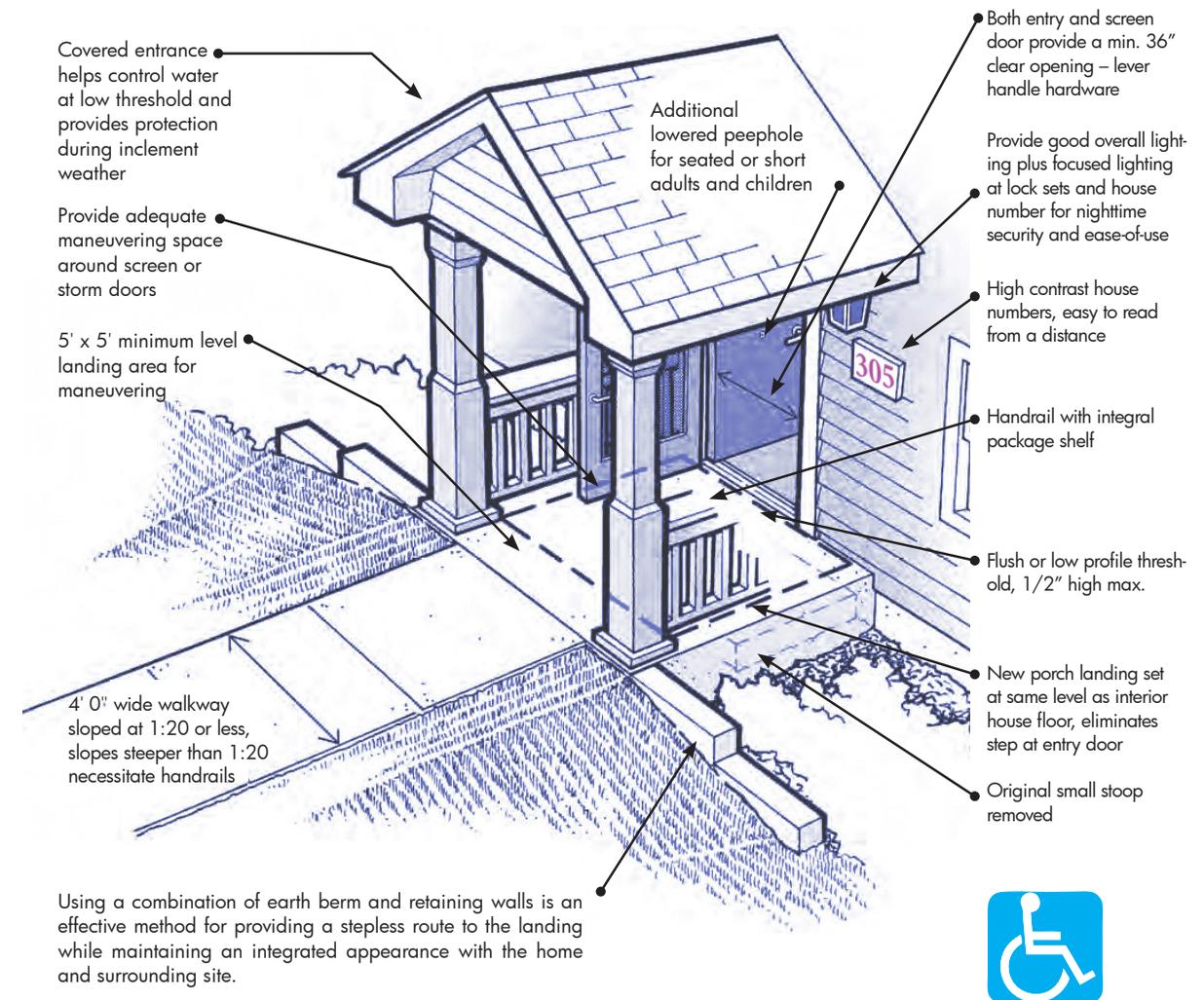
116 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968 • (631) 283-6000

www.southamptontownny.gov

Rev. 03-19

Presented by Southampton Town Disability Advisory Committee

Basic Access Guide



Town of Southampton

Department of Community Services (631) 702-2423



Planning a new home, an addition, or renovations? Before you choose materials, a design, or a contractor, the Town of Southampton Disability Advisory Committee wants you to consider and incorporate BASIC ACCESS elements in your construction designs.

What is BASIC ACCESS? People are living longer than ever and the traditional home that serves you well when you're healthy won't always take care of you with a broken leg or a bum back. Opening doors with your arms full of groceries is as difficult at 30 as it is at 70. An 85-year-old woman still wants to live in her own home; she just needs a home that allows her to do so.

You probably have noticed the increasing number of people using assistive devices to get around. Some are teenagers with a torn knee ligament from football practice; some are aging Baby Boomers lucky enough to have just replaced that knee; some are wounded veterans with permanent disabilities; some have congenital disabilities. **ALL NEED BASIC ACCESS** and, although some may have already made adjustments in their homes, wouldn't it be nice if we all could welcome disabled guests as easily as any others?

With some simple, thoughtful, advance planning, **BASIC ACCESS** ideas can help you create a home that welcomes everyone.

A person using a wheelchair would be much less "handicapped" if buildings and surroundings were wheelchair accessible. The extent of the individual handicap relates directly to accessibility. Everyone should have BASIC ACCESS.

BASIC ACCESS is a component of UNIVERSAL DESIGN which is an overall design philosophy that refers to products, buildings and exterior spaces designed to be usable by everyone without costly adaptations or specialized design. That's important to everyone who lives long enough to experience the natural changes in ability, whether temporary or permanent, that come with aging, illness, or accidents. **UNIVERSAL DESIGN** is influencing commercial and industrial designers. For example, OXO Good Grips is widely recognized for its innovative and easy to use kitchen gadgets. Another example is lever handles which are much easier to use than twisting a door knob. **UNIVERSAL DESIGN** features should be incorporated into your home whether it's your first home, your vacation spot, or your retirement home.

Grips is widely recognized for its innovative and easy to use kitchen gadgets. Another example is lever handles which are much easier to use than twisting a door knob. **UNIVERSAL DESIGN** features should be incorporated into your home whether it's your first home, your vacation spot, or your retirement home.

But our focus here is BASIC ACCESS. BASIC ACCESS has 3 integral elements.

- The entrance approach, that allows access in the first place, must get you to the door.
- The door threshold must be step-less and at least 36" wide.
- Finally, there must be at least one bathroom with a 36" door and 5-foot sweep to allow a wheelchair in and to maneuver efficiently.

1. ENTRANCE approaches must begin on hard surfaces like a driveway bottom, a concrete curb cut or any other firmly graded area. The approach pathway must be at least 36 inches wide and a gentle slope of no more than 1:20. The path should be flush at the threshold. There are several means to meet the threshold including a simple ramp, or bridge and berm.

2. DOORS ideally should all be 36" wide or more to allow a wheelchair to pass. The door opening must have a 5-foot sweep. If your existing door isn't 36" wide and you cannot change the door, replace your existing hinges with off-set hinges which can add 1.5" to the opening. And, while you're at it, replace door knobs with easy-to-use lever handles.

3. BATHROOM door requirements are the same as the entrance: 36" wide with a 5-foot sweep. Grab bars are integral to any bathroom design now but if the structural blocking for grab bars was not included in your original construction, it can be retrofitted. Consult your contractor.



People with disabilities participate in all types of activities if they have access!

How you incorporate those **BASIC ACCESS** elements is an individual decision. The entrance can be as simple as a portable ramp or as elaborate as you can imagine and afford. A well-landscaped berm/bridge to a front door can satisfy functional and aesthetic issues equally well. **For a simple ramp see ADA guideline at www.cs.wright.edu/bie/rehabengr/ramps/adaramp.htm**

BASIC ACCESS should be built-in like the wiring and the plumbing. If you have to retrofit, it will certainly be more difficult and costly.



FACTS AND STATS:

According to the 2000 U.S Census, Southampton Town:

- Had 5,877 disabled residents between the ages of 5 and 65
- Had 2,571 disabled residents who were 65 or older.
- The senior population is growing at three times the rate of the general population, and more than half of all Americans expect to have elder care responsibilities within the next 10 years. **These numbers are not getting smaller.**

"Take back your life: regain your footing after life throws you a curve."

Note: Custom construction or remodeling advice is beyond our scope. For detailed requirements on any building project, consult your licensed contractor or the **Southampton Town Building Department**. For home modifications to accommodate persons with disabilities, the Southampton Town Building Inspectors will "fast track" building permit applications and waive building permit fees associated with **BASIC ACCESS** improvements, such as entrance ramps and kitchen and bathroom renovations. For new home construction and substantial renovations that incorporate **UNIVERSAL DESIGN/BASIC ACCESS** features, a \$300 credit toward the building permit fees may be available.