

CITIES' COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

League of Women Voters Roseville Area

Falcon Heights

Lauderdale

Little Canada

Maplewood

Roseville



Team Members:

- Chairs: Stephanie and Jim DeBenedet - Roseville
- Ann Cleland - Maplewood
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- Mary Peterson – Little Canada

Background

The ADA was enacted into law in 1990 to prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in areas including transportation, communications and access to state and local government programs and services.

The Department of Justice set revisions labeled Titles II and III in 2010 to solve problems that had risen since its inception.

A person with a disability is defined as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that limits life activities.

Regulations are extensive and specific.



The ADA and the League of Women Voters

Collaboration with other organizations on lobbying and in the legal system.



Voter registration

Opposing voter ID measures that disproportionately affect people with disabilities

Serving as poll watchers checking on accessibility requirements.

Study Goal: Do the LWV Roseville Area cities comply with ADA requirements?

- Look at compliance policy.
- Look at administration.
- Physical accessibility to government buildings, polling locations and city recreational venues.
- Determine compliance with ADA requirements and considerations to improve non-compliance.

- The study was limited to residents with mobility challenges.
- Other limitations such as blindness and hearing can be studied at some other time.
- Entered data gathered into a shared Google Drive folder.

Study Organization

Part One: Compliancy Requirements

Part Two: Access to Civic Buildings

Part Three: Access to Voting

Part Four: Access to Parks and Recreation

Part Five: Individual City Analyses

Formation of Consensus Questions

Part One: Compliancy Requirements

1. Does your city have an official ADA compliance policy? If so, when was it adopted? Will you provide us with a copy?
2. Does your city have an ADA compliance officer? Who is that person?
3. How many employees does your city have?
4. Does your city have an ADA compliance plan? When was it adopted? Will you provide us with a copy?
5. Does your city have an ADA complaint process that is easily understood and accessible to all residents?
6. What obstacles exist to full ADA compliance in your city?

	Falcon Heights*	Lauderdale*	Little Canada*	Maplewood	Roseville
1. Official compliance policy?	No	No	No	No	Yes
2. Compliance Officer?	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
3. No. of Employees	8	5	21	167	217
4. Have compliance plan?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
5. Easily accessible grievance process	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
6. Possible obstacles to compliance	Financing	Compliance occurs when city does upgrades.	Financing	Compliance occurs when city does upgrades.	Financing

Cities view compliancy plans in different ways.

- Maplewood, Roseville and Falcon Heights had a formal *Transition Plan for Facilities Within the Public Right-of-Way* which included streets, sidewalks, transportation, trails but not things like access to city buildings, polling locations or civic participation options.
- Transition Plan for Parks and Recreation (Roseville).
- Statements in Maplewood and Roseville employee handbooks state adherence to ADA requirements.
- References to Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) which incorporated ADA compliance.
- Transition intentions were also included in the 2040 Comprehensive Plans for Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, and Roseville.

Part Two: Access to Civic Buildings

City Halls are mainly ADA compliant or provide access accommodations for City Council and commission meetings, city departments, and community functions. Examples are:

- Falcon Heights has a ramp to the speakers' podium so residents in wheelchairs can serve.
- Roseville has a table for seated residents to address the council.
- Little Canada and Lauderdale make handheld microphones available for residents who cannot stand to address the council.
- Maplewood and Roseville have ADA compliant elevators because they have meeting rooms on multiple floors.

Civic Building non-compliancy was mainly in parking and restrooms.

- There was no parking lot correct signage for van accessibility.
- Lauderdale's building entrance does not open automatically, and restrooms are not ADA compliant.
- Falcon Heights restrooms have minimal stall size making it difficult for a resident with mobility equipment to use.
- Roseville's restroom soap and towel dispensers are unreachable from a scooter/wheelchair.
- Little Canada's restroom is not accessible automatically.







Part Three: Access To Voting

- The Minnesota Secretary of State designates cities as responsible for choosing polling sites and accessibility.
- Ramsey County Elections Administrator and staff coordinate with the cities using a 75-point ADA-compliance survey to inspect and address accessibility issues.
- The study committee surveyed each polling site for accessible parking spaces, building access and accessible restrooms.
- Polling sites generally met ADA compliance with non-compliancy centering on parking.



Faded lines, lack of accessibility aisles, incorrect signage.



Ramp is too steep.

Part Four: Access to Parks and Recreation

- Cities are aware of ADA compliancy when renovating parks and have made positive changes over time.
- Newest playgrounds and park buildings are fully ADA compliant.
- Oldest parks are non-compliant.
- Older playgrounds use wood chip surfaces which break down. If not replaced, low level removes accessibility to equipment.
- Signage, faded lines and lack of accessibility aisles are also problems in parking lots.

Examples of playground changes over time.



Lack of updating leaves
playgrounds inaccessible and
sometimes dangerous.



Individual City Analyses

- We found cities overall met most ADA requirements.
- Most areas of non-compliancy can be improved with modifications; most with limited financial investment.
- Most non-compliancy areas were in parking lots and in parks.
- Compliancy plans should include residents with disabilities in oversight, planning, and visionary groups in order to better understand their needs.
- If cities had ADA policies, contact coordinators and grievance forms, they were not easily located on websites.

Falcon Heights

Falcon Heights' geographic boundaries include portions of the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus and the Minnesota State Fairgrounds, making 66% of the city's land area tax-exempt and statutorily out of the city's land use control. Only one of the city parks is owned by the city.

ADA Considerations

- Continue to enforce ADA requirements as pedestrian walkways are upgraded.
- Include residents with disabilities in the development of pedestrian safe network transit connections.
- Include residents with disabilities in developing a trail plan that connects residents to parks and open spaces.

- Regularly restripe parking lots, adding ADA compliant signage and striping for access aisles for handicapped parking.
- Update restrooms in City Hall improving their accessibility and usage.
- Proceed on Capital Improvement Plan for remodeling/rebuilding Community Park building following ADA compliance.
- Include playground updates in the Community Park rebuild.
- Review the 2014 safety and compliant audit of playgrounds and include updates in Capital Improvement Plan.

Lauderdale

Lauderdale is the smallest city in our League area. It's 2040 Comprehensive Plan sets goals and strategies for renewal and redevelopment that will need to incorporate ADA requirements.

ADA Considerations

- Include residents with disabilities in the development of pedestrian safe network transit connections.
- Include residents with disabilities in developing a trail plan that connects residents to parks and open spaces.
- Include residents with disabilities when soliciting information about resident current and expected park needs and wants.

- Ensure there are access aisles for parking when striping parking lots and for street parking. Community Park playground is non-compliant with a marked accessible parking area that does not have a hard surface access aisle on Pleasant Avenue. It needs to have a paved access that connects to the hard surface walkway.
- Evaluate the Community Park playground on a regular basis and replace the wood chips as needed or consider the addition of a rubberized solid surface or artificial turf in park development plans.
- Provide an ADA compliant parking stall in front of City Hall or in some location convenient for citizens.
- Update restrooms in City Hall improving their handicap accessibility and usage.

Little Canada

Little Canada employs only 21 full time staff, therefore is not required to have a compliancy policy but covers ADA goals in its 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Spooner Park has a new totally ADA compliant playground and Pioneer Park is in Phase 1 of a Master Plan to enhance/replace its playground.

ADA Considerations

- Continue to implement ADA requirements as pedestrian walkways are upgraded.
- Regularly restripe parking lots, adding ADA compliant signage, and striping for access aisles.
- Evaluate the parks on a regular basis and replace the wood chips as needed.
- Proceed on plan to enhance/replace Pioneer Park playground following ADA compliance.
- Include paved surfaces for residents with mobility challenges when upgrading playgrounds.

Maplewood

Maplewood is the second largest city in Ramsey County. Rather than a single compliancy policy, each city department is responsible for their area of work.

ADA Considerations

- Review and enforce an ADA compliance audit of all public buildings, playgrounds, and parks.
- Adopt a written position description for a designated ADA Coordinator and post completed and ongoing compliance requirements with progress dates.
- Update online park information with correct addresses, photos, and parking information.
- Maintain depth on playgrounds loose fill (wood chip) surfaces.
- Identify accessible parking spaces by painting the lines with correct size and access aisles and providing signage.

Roseville

Roseville has an aging population with twenty-one percent over the age of 65. Of those under the age of 65, 6.8% have a disability.

ADA Considerations

- Include residents with disabilities on planning groups for transit, trail plans and development of parks and open spaces.
- Update the ADA grievance form to include issues with building access, voting and parks and make it easily located on the city website.
- Continue to implement ADA requirements as pedestrian walkways are upgraded.

- Regularly restripe parking lots, adding ADA compliant signage, and striping for access aisles including signing van accessible parking stalls.
- Proceed on a plan for remodeling/rebuilding City Parks and buildings following ADA compliance including making playgrounds accessible with level access to and into the play areas.
- Evaluate the parks on a regular basis and replace the wood chips as needed.

Consensus

The Study Committee proposes the following consensus statements be considered for adoption by the League of Women Voters Roseville Area.

Should LWV Roseville Area Modify the Current Position?

Support opportunities for citizen participation in city government, including early public participation in the decision-making process, and open appointment for advisory committees. (1988)

Support ADA compliant opportunities for resident participation in city government, including early public participation in the decision-making process, and open appointment for advisory committees. (2022)

Should LWV Roseville Area Modify The Current Position?

Support safe non-motorized pathways with costs assessed areawide. (1983)

Support ADA compliant safe non-motorized pathways with costs assessed areawide. (2022)

Should LWV Roseville Area adopt a new position:

Support city government compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements in administrative policy, and access to and use of city owned and leased buildings, voting precincts, and recreational locations and facilities.

Should LWV Roseville Area adopt a new position?

Support compliance by city governments in the Americans with Disabilities Act by making identification of an ADA Coordinator and grievance process easily found on city websites.