



NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

Accessibility Resource Guide

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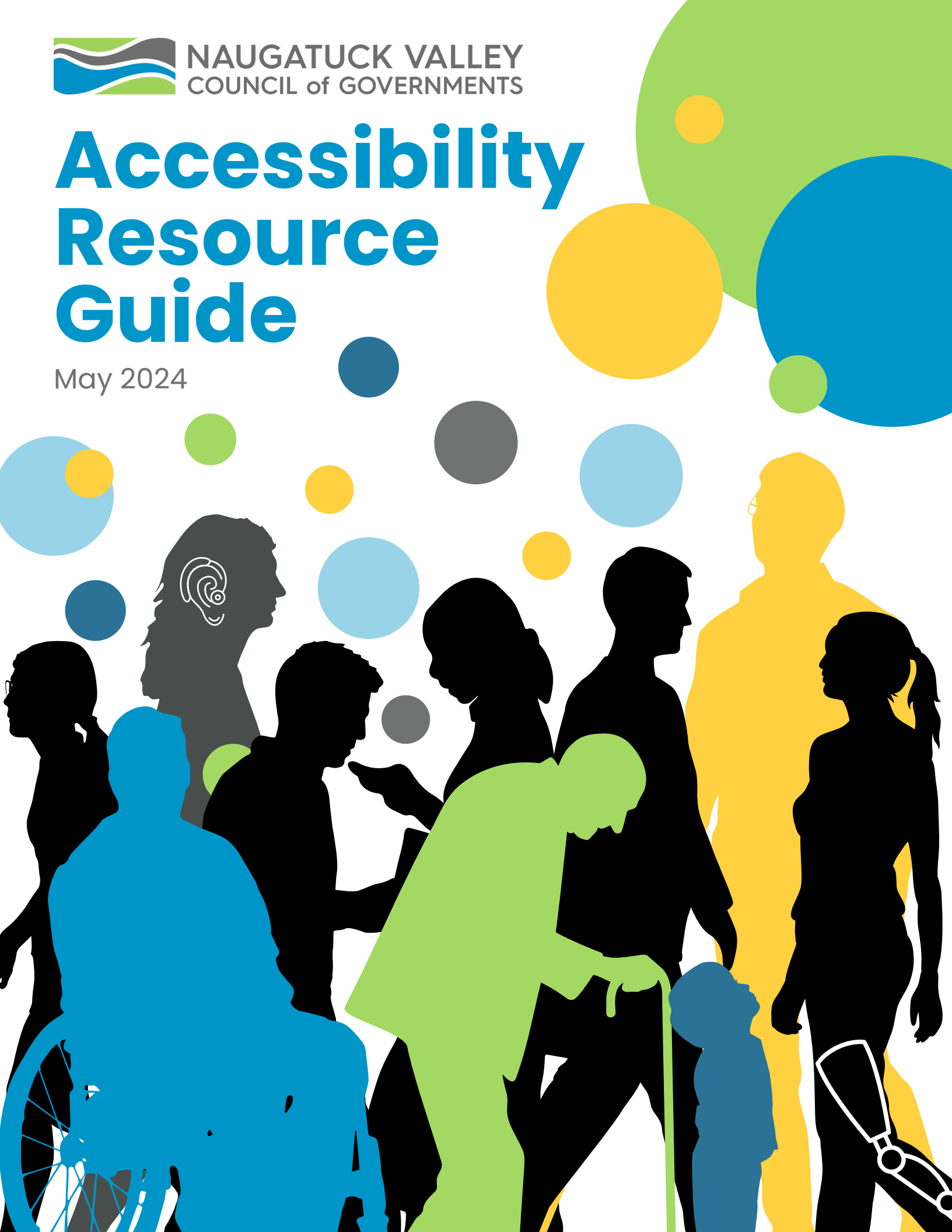


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Opening Address

Throughout their careers, planners are exposed to a diverse range of planning perspectives, experiences, and wisdom that inform their decision making and implementation. Land-use commissions and boards, as well as municipal planners, collaborate to promote accessibility in their respective communities by setting policy goals and implementing those goals through land use decision making processes.

Accessibility is crucial in creating communities that are welcoming, visitable, and participatory for those who live, work, and play in our municipalities. When land-use administrators engage in planning for accessibility, everyone in the community benefits.

The NVCOG's Accessibility Resource Guide includes memorandums, academic articles, videos, podcasts, websites, and policy documents related to accessibility in municipal planning, design, and policy setting. While not an exhaustive list of resources, this Guide offers a variety of sources to learn about accessibility, its relationship to people with disabilities, and how it can appear in a community's design.

The NVCOG Accessibility Resource Guide is intended to enrich the knowledge land-use professionals use in making their municipalities an accessible place to live in, and one that will flourish in the future for all.



Planners, Building Officials, Zoning Enforcement Officers, and Land Use Administrators gathered to learn about how to incorporate accessibility into site plan review at the NVCOG Offices.

Resource Websites

- [**ADA Standards for Accessible Design, U.S. Department of Justice: Civil Rights Division**](#): On this page, the ADA Standards for Accessible Design covers newly constructed buildings and facilities, alterations made to buildings and facilities, making architectural changes to existing state and local government buildings to provide “program access,” and removing architectural barriers.
- [**Accessible, Whole Building Design Guide: WBDG Accessible Committee**](#): This page provides information on accessible design in whole building design, equal access, best practices, standards, guidelines, thinking beyond universal design, and its connection to health.
- [**Visitability, Whole Building Design Guide: WBDG Accessible Committee**](#): This page provides information on visitability, an affordable, sustainable, and inclusive design approach for integrating core accessibility features as a routine construction practice into all newly built homes. These features allow the home to be visited by relatives, friends, and others who may have disabilities, accommodate short-term occupancy by people with disabilities, and facilitate additional adaptations that may be needed by an individual. The page provides examples of different environments, contexts, and examples of design.
- [**Tactile paving: The sidewalk bumps that serve an important purpose, All About Vision**](#): This page provides an overview of tactile paving, its origins, the kinds of tactile paving, where it's typically used, and the importance of textile paving.
- [**Fast Facts About Tactile Pavement, Perkins School for the Blind**](#): This article provides insights on tactile pavement, why it is beneficial, and common scenarios those with vision impairments may encounter (in the perspective of a college student). As well as related articles to better inform perspectives on the reality people with sight disabilities have.
- [**Accessibility Fundamentals Overview. Web Accessibility Initiative W3C**](#): This page, the Web Accessibility Initiative, offers a wide range of resources, reading material, research, and digital courses and training on web accessibility.
- [**Designing For Accessibility and Inclusion, Smashing Magazine**](#): In this article, Steven Lambert, a specialist in design systems, performance, and accessibility, discusses the different lenses of accessibility web designers can use to achieve better access to their users.

Videos

- [**How to design streets for everyone \(Universal Design\), YouTube**](#): In this video from City Beautiful, the video focuses on the concept of universal design and how it contributes to the well-being of not only those who have disabilities but that of the wider population, specifically on street design.
- [**The 7 Principles of Universal Design | Ed Roberts Campus, YouTube**](#): In this video from the Center for Independent Living's *Power On*, Rafael Siegel tours Berkeley, California's Ed Roberts Campus to speak about the 7 principles of universal design and how they create buildings and interiors for people with disabilities and everyone.
- [**What Defines Normal? Designing Accessible Architecture| Eduardo Landicho| TEDxUCDavis, YouTube**](#): In this TEDx video, Eduardo Landicho expands on how people can design more inclusive standards in architecture and set a new understanding within society to include access for all. Eduardo Landicho is a fourth-year design major with a focus on architecture at UC Davis. Eduardo was born with Muscular Dystrophy and has been wheelchair-bound since the early age of five. He wants to create sustainable and equitable infrastructure to create much more inclusive environments for those with disabilities.
- [**Why Is Accessible Design Good for Everyone? |ARTiculations, YouTube**](#): This video explains how universal design, barrier free design, and accessible design can benefit everyone.

Podcasts

- [**Disability Advocate Rebekah Taussig on Built Environment Barriers You Might Not See, APA Podcast: People Behind the Plans:**](#) In this episode of People Behind the Plans, the APA sits down with Rebekah Taussig before her keynote address at APA's National Planning Conference. She explains how storytelling has allowed her to reclaim the narrative of her own life and help others understand how isolating, cumbersome, unjust, and unsustainable cities and cultures are for people with disabilities. **Podcast transcript is available on the landing webpage.**
- [**Episode 2: City Planning, Accessibility Outside the Box, Disability Rights Florida:**](#) In this episode, Disability Rights Florida interviewed Nora Libertun, a leading global expert on urban planning and design, sustainability, and social inclusion. Her work revolves around making everything in a city more accessible, including the layout, transportation, and recreation. She spoke about how cities need to be designed for everyone to utilize, especially people with disabilities. **Podcast transcription is available on the landing webpage.**
- [**EP 86. Transportation w/ Maddy Ruvolo, Disability Visibility Project:**](#) In this episode, Maddy Ruvolo, a disabled urban planner passionate about transportation access for the disability community, share with the Disability Visibility Project how she first became interested in transportation and the results from a survey she conducted of people with disabilities in San Francisco about new mobility technologies and services. **Podcast transcript is available here.**
- [**41. Web Accessibility, The Disability Equity Podcast:**](#) In this episode, Jared Smith, Associate Director of WebAIM, shared with The Disability Equity Podcast his expertise of over 20 years of working in web accessibility. Smith highlights how online access means equity to information and ecommerce for all. He describes his team's systems to search websites for a wide variety of barriers, even with the few federal guidelines in place. **Podcast transcript is available here. Downloads as word document file.**
- [**Ep. 308 Curb Cuts, 99% Invisible:**](#) In this episode, 99% Invisible discusses Ed Roberts, a central and significant California-based activist in accessibility, whose work heavily influenced the way people interact with sidewalks, the "curb-cut effect," and the greater conversation of inclusion and accessibility. **Podcast transcript is available here.**
- [**The curb cut effect: How Universal design makes things better for everyone, Medium:**](#) This is a supplemental article discussing the curb-cut effect and the use of universal design to make communities more accessible.
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Planning Guides

- [**Access and Persons with Disabilities in Urban Areas \(2022\), Institute for Transportation & Development Policy**](#): In this report, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy presents, in partnership with World Enabled (The Victor Pineda Foundation), a report that explores accessible transit-oriented development and sustainable urban mobility through the lens of people with disabilities and offers a set of recommendations to promote responsive actions. **The Report and Executive Summary are available to review.**
- [**Autism Planning and Design Guidelines 1.0, by Kyle Ezell, FAICP CUD Galyna Korniyenko, Richard Stein, AICP, American Planning Association Publications PAS Memo**](#): In this PAS Memo introduces planners to the Six Feelings Framework for planning for autism and offers examples of how to apply these design principles to make the public realm more safe, comfortable, and inclusive for everybody in a community. **(Paid Resource)**
- [**Planning Accessible Communities, by Jeannine Godwin, AICP, American Planning Association Publications PAS Memo**](#): In this PAS Memo explains the importance of planning and designing truly inclusive communities that engage people with disabilities and meet their accessibility and mobility needs. **(Paid Resource)**
- [**Planning for Dementia-Friendly Communities, by Jonathan Katz, American Planning Association Publications PAS Memo**](#): In this PAS Memo identifies strategies and best practices to incorporate dementia-friendly approaches in planning for transportation, housing, public space, urban fabric, and social services. The memo provides background information on how people with dementia experience the built environment, offers guidance on how to reach out to people with dementia and their care partners, and introduces various organizations and actors that work with people with dementia and their care partners that can connect with planners' work. **(Paid Resource)**

Policies

- [**Accessibility Compliance, Connecticut State Sitecore Training and Fundamentals**](#): This page from the State of Connecticut’s Accessibility Compliance provides info on website accessibility, laws and guidelines, alternatives, and solutions.
- [**Accessibility Legal Requirements for Buildings, State of Connecticut Office of Legislative Research**](#): This report provides an overview of federal and state laws governing the accessibility of buildings to people with disabilities.
- [**American with Disabilities Act Title II: Nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in State and local government services, U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division**](#)
 - [**State and Local Governments**](#): This page provides an overview of guidelines and requirements under Title II of the ADA that all state and local governments must follow regardless of their size.
- [**ADA Best Practice Tool Kit for State and Local Governments**](#): Released by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, the ADA Best Practice Tool Kit is designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services, and activities. It will also teach state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access.
- [**Guide to the ABA Accessibility Standards, U.S. Access Board**](#): This page provides a comprehensive guide to the standards of the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) as they apply to facilities designed, built, altered, or leased with federal funds. The guide explains requirements under the ABA Standards with helpful examples, animations, and analysis. Best reviewed with a copy of the [**ABA Accessibility Standards**](#).

Academic Studies

- **[“More sidewalks, more bus stops”: Travel behaviors and opinions of Connecticut teenagers by Marisa E. Auguste et. al \(2020\) Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives](#)**: In this study, an online survey was developed to evaluate the environmental, demographic, and socioeconomic factors that support or discourage the mobility of teenagers. Distributed to adults (18–25 years old) in Connecticut, the survey gathered retrospective data on their travel behaviors as teenagers, as well as associated attitudes and beliefs about different transportation modes. Recommendations for improved connectivity and promotion of currently available public transportation options are provided.
- **[Fostering an inclusive public transport system in the digital era: An interdisciplinary approach by Anne Durand et. al \(2023\), Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives](#)**: In this article, the study pieces together existing initiatives and lessons learnt in the transport sector itself and takes inspiration from other fields with a more mature understanding of digitalization. While the article’s study was conducted in the Netherlands, the presented measures can be applied in other countries by stakeholders working on inclusive digital transformations in (public) transport services.
- **[Towards a co-creation framework based on citizen’s dreams of future mobility by Esbjörn Ebbesson \(2022\) Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives](#)**: In this paper, the authors investigate how future workshops can be used to generate a framework rooted in the context of citizens, and how this framework can be used as a point of departure to co-creation in multi-stakeholder settings to address wicked problems (transportation).



For a physical copy, contact Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments:

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor Waterbury, CT 06702

info@nvcogct.gov

(203) 757-0535

www.nvcogct.gov

For complaints, questions or concerns about civil rights or nondiscrimination; or for special requests under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact: Desira Blanchard, Communications & Community Engagement Coordinator at 203-489-0353 or dblanchard@nvcogct.gov.