



**MobilityMania**

Accessibility for All

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Accessibility for All



**Mission: To make Itasca County  
the most wheelchair friendly and  
accessible county in the state of  
Minnesota.**



**GRAND RAPIDS**  
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE



**MyrnaLee Mania set a Guinness Book of World Records by 351 people in wheelchairs rolling simultaneously for 3 minutes.**

**Why don't we see these people out  
in our community??**

# **BARRIERS IDENTIFIED**

- 1. Accessible transportation**
- 2. Access into and within buildings**
- 3. Sidewalks, cut-a-ways, trails and parking spaces**
- 4. Awareness**

# 1. Accessible Transportation for All Abilities

- Arrowhead Transit does a FANTASTIC job transporting and helping the citizens of our community and we thank them!



- When the bus isn't running, there are no wheelchair accessible taxi services available. Sadly, the only option is using medical transport services, which is very expensive.
- Public transportation affects many people so it is Mobility Mania's hope for collaboration with MnDOT and many different agencies to explore how we can increase public transportation past 8pm, include weekend coverage and increase the service area.

## 2. Accessibility Into & Within Buildings

- **Just because it's compliant does NOT mean it is accessible. For example: a door opening may be compliant, but it doesn't mean all wheelchairs can fit through it.**

**If you have a chance to make it bigger, by all means do!**



# DOOR BUTTONS

- Buttons often placed too high making it difficult to reach them.
- Pressure of buttons can be set too strong, making it difficult to push.
- Timing often is set too fast so there is not enough time to get through the doorway.



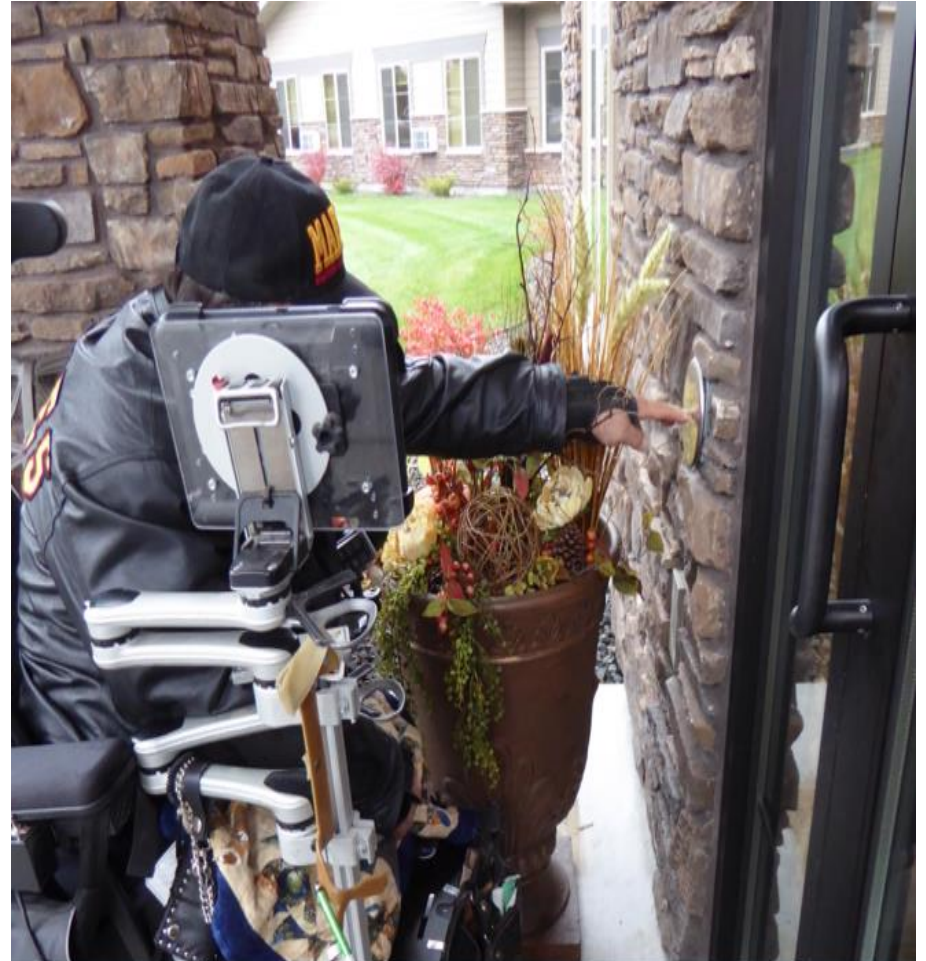
I'm so thankful they added a lower button that I can reach now!

**It would be so helpful if buttons were not placed behind the door that opens so the wheelchair would not get trapped.**





- It would be so awesome if objects were not placed in front of the button.



- **If you are going to replace a door, consider a low clearance threshold to make it easier for people who use wheelchairs, walkers, or canes.**

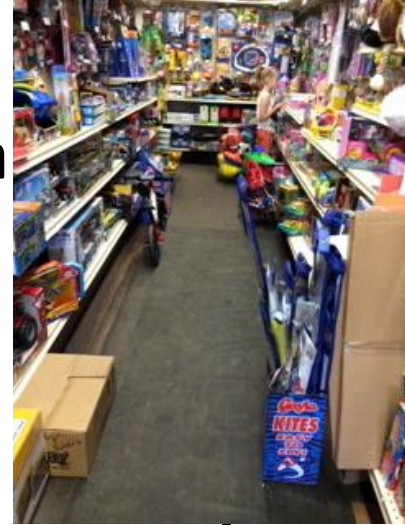


- **Steps are difficult for many. A sidewalk with a nice grade would have been perfect.**



- **Ramps: if you have an opportunity to make a ramp with the lowest incline possible, absolutely go for it!**

- **Keeping aisles open lets a person in a wheelchair spend money, too.**



- **Think about where you might seat a person in a wheelchair at a restaurant so they feel included and not different or isolated.**
- **Little things like this, a different way of thinking, is an awareness that can make all the difference in the world!!**

# BATHROOMS

- If you can, consider building the bathroom bigger. Trust us, the more room for a wheelchair to maneuver, the better!
- Make toilets and sinks high enough, and faucets and soap dispensers set close enough to reach easily.
- Mount mirrors and hand dryers low enough to reach. Motion activated dryers and faucets work the best!
- Hooks on doors could be lowered to accommodate purses, oxygen tanks and accessories of a person in a wheelchairs. Thanks!



# Bathrooms with no doors work the best!



**Think about it... If you have a caregiver of the opposite sex, which bathroom do you use?  
Family bathrooms work the best!**



### **3. Sidewalks, Trails & Parking Spaces**

**Putting in a new sidewalk? Would you consider a saw cut vs. a grooving tool cut? It sure would help the wheelchair ride more smoothly!**





**This town did great! Thank you for the angled cutaways and not making them too steep.**



- **This is perfect! Painting sidewalk bumps bright yellow sure help the visually impaired. Thank you!**



# TRAILS

- We understand that barriers are designed to limit motorized vehicles but we just want to go on the trails too!



# PARKING SPACES

- **Do the crime, pay the fine!**



- **Did you know signs need to have a fine attached for parking violations to be enforced?**



- **See a handicapped parking violation: call the non-emergency phone number to your local police department.**

## 4. AWARENESS

- Why is the trash always placed where the people in wheelchairs are suppose to sit?



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

## **\*\*IT ALL STARTS WITH AWARENESS\*\***

- **Simple little things we do today will have YEARS AND YEARS of lasting effects!**
- **Think beyond what is complaint and ask “will this work for a person in a wheelchair?”**
- **You have the power to better peoples’ lives!**
- **Don’t do it because you have to, do it because you want to!**

**ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL!**  
***WILL YOU TAKE THE CHALLENGE?***





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[www.mobilitymania.org](http://www.mobilitymania.org)