

Appendix B

**Section 504/ADA
Compliance**

Rockland ADA Inventory

Introduction

The Town of Rockland has an Americans with Disabilities Act Commission. Its mission is as follows:

The Rockland Americans with Disabilities Act Commission serves as a resource to the Town of Rockland community to address accessibility, equal rights, and other issues of concern to people with disabilities. Specifically, in accordance with M.G.L. chapter 40, Section 8J, the Commission is responsible for:

- Researching local problems of people with disabilities
- Advising and assisting municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities
- Coordinating or carrying out programs that meet the needs of people with disabilities in coordinating with the programs of the MA Office on Disability
- Reviewing and making recommendations about policies, procedures, services, activities, and facilities of departments, boards and agencies of the Town of Rockland as they affect people with disabilities
- Providing information, referrals, guidance, and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, business, and organizations in all matters pertaining to disabilities
- Coordinating activities of other local groups organized for similar purpose

ADA Assessment

The table below lists the publicly accessible properties that are managed by the Conservation Commission, Parks Commission or the Youth Commission. All sites were fully outdoors (with the exception of bathrooms), and had no entrances, stairs, doors, swimming pools, shower rooms, or similar facilities.

✓ = facility is present x = facility is absent

Location	Parking	Pathway/ trail	Rest- room	Ramp	Picnic Area	Play Area/field
Bicentennial Park	✓	x	x	x	x	✓
Hartsuff Park	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Memorial Park (renovation underway)	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓
Memorial Stadium	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x
Reeds Pond	✓	x	x	x	x	x
Spring Street Field	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓
Town Forest	✓	✓	x	x	x	x

Rockland ADA Access Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Evaluations in this document are for publicly accessible properties owned by the Town of Rockland, managed by the Conservation Commission, Parks Commission or the Youth Commission, and have facilities such as parking areas, a pathway/trail, restrooms, ramp, picnic area, play equipment, or a water fountain. Properties that lack any facilities are identified on the ADA Inventory, but are absent from this document as there are no facilities to evaluate.

Bicentennial Park

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	• Paved parking lot for more than two dozen spaces • Two accessible spaces • Good pavement condition • Good location near the entrance to the park • Correct measurements and signage
Pathway	Park has a running track and a playground. The running track is can be accessed directly from the parking area, but there is no pathway to the playground. It can only be reached by walking on a sloped grassy area.
Ramp	There are no ADA compliant ramps, but the running track and inner field are level with the parking area
Restroom	Currently a standard portable toilet, not accessible
Play area	Small playground that is not ADA compliant

Note: The Town is planning a significant upgrade to this park in the next few years to include replacement of the running track, adding lighting, replacing the inner field with a synthetic field, and replacing the playground, incorporating ADA compliance.



Hartsuff Park

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Large gravel parking area without any defined parking spaces, it will pond during rain events, no accessible spaces are designated, and not accessible to the rest of the park
Pathway	No defined pathways through the park. There is a walking trail along one edge of the park, but it would be difficult to maneuver in a wheelchair.
Ramp	No ramps in the park
Restroom	One building housing both a men's and women's restroom. Not ADA compliant. Not accessible via a paved path.
Picnic area	Several picnic tables that are not ADA compliant located on unpaved area. Two tables are ADA compliant in terms of design and measurements, but not placed on a ground surface area that can be accessed by wheelchair.
Play area	New KaBOOM! Playground. Accessible by a ramp. Wood chip ground surface. Other facilities such as the fields, beach and disk-golf course are not easily reached by wheelchair.

Note: The Town is planning a number of improvements to Hartsuff Park, including making the bathhouse and playground area ADA compliant and upgrading the parking area.





Memorial Park

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Parking is located at the nearby elementary school. The parking area is generally ADA compliant, but the pavement has numerous cracks.
Picnic area	Picnic tables are inaccessible and not ADA compliant.
Play area	Play equipment is old and the ground surface is gravel.

Note: This park is not ADA compliant and will need to be totally upgraded.

Memorial Stadium

Memorial Stadium is being renovated to secure the structure, repaving the cement stands, replacing seating and complying with all applicable ADA regulations. Construction is expected to be complete in late 2018.



Reeds Pond

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Unpaved, unimproved parking area with no accessible spaces. Ponding after rain events

Note: This is an area the Town seeks to improve over the next few years depending upon funding. Long-term improvements (in addition to enhancements to the shoreline and beach) include a new parking lot and the construction of a boat house, both of which will be ADA compliant.



Spring Street Field

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	Parking is available at the adjacent school, which is paved and ADA compliant. Additional parking on a small gravel area with no designated accessible spots.
Picnic area	Tables and benches are not ADA compliant.
Playing fields	Four baseball/softball fields with stands and dugouts. Mostly in unpaved areas so difficult to access via wheelchair. Seating not ADA compliant. Concession stand not easily accessible. One step to reach concession stand – no ramp.

Note: There are no immediate plans to improve this Spring Street Field, but it is one of the more heavily used facilities. Future needs include new stands, parking lot improvements and ramps to enhance accessibility to all features of the park.



Town Forest

Facility	Evaluation
Parking	There is a very small unpaved parking lot that may hold three or four cars.
Pathway/trail	There is a stretch of trail that is considered to be wheelchair accessible, but due to wetlands and areas prone to flooding, additional accommodations are impractical.



Town of Rockland Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Rockland. The Town's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Allan R. Chiocca
Town Administrator/ADA Coordinator
242 Union Street, Rockland, MA 02370

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Allan R. Chiocca will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Allan R. Chiocca will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Rockland and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Allan R. Chiocca does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Board of Selectmen.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Selectmen will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Board of Selectmen will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Allan R. Chiocca, appeals to the Board of Selectmen, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Town of Rockland for at least three years.



NOTICE OF ADA REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Town of Rockland will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Town of Rockland does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Town of Rockland will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Town of Rockland's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Town of Rockland will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Town of Rockland offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of The Town of Rockland, should contact the office of Allan R. Chiocca, 242 Union Street, Rockland, MA 02370 or ta@rockland-ma.gov as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Town of Rockland to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Town of Rockland is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Allan R. Chiocca, 242 Union Street, Rockland, MA 02370 or ta@rockland-ma.gov

The Town of Rockland will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.