



GEORGETOWN COUNTY ADA TRANSITION PLAN



I. Introduction

Consistent with the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, Georgetown County has identified certain structural barriers to full facility and program accessibility, has taken positive steps to remove many of these barriers, and is committed to a program of removal for those remaining. Priority shall remain for those structures most frequently utilized by the public, particularly the County Courthouse, County Services Building and the various structures and athletic fields operated by the County Recreation & Leisure Services Division.

II. Completed Improvements 2005 - 2014

- A. At the County Courthouse, signage consistent with ADA requirements has been installed.
- B. A unisex accessible restroom has been provided on the second floor of the County Annex Building.
- C. Telecommunication devices for the deaf are available through 911.
- D. Several sites operated by the County Parks & Recreation Department have improved access.
- E. An elevator has been installed at the Gallery Building, and the Rice Museum exhibits have been relocated to an accessible site.
- F. A wheelchair access ramp has been installed at the County Arts Commission building.
- G. A ramp has been installed at the Juvenile Justice Building.
- H. A ramp has been installed at the Voter Registration Building.
- I. Wheelchair accessible boardwalks and ramps have been installed to provide access to at least one area of each public beach in Georgetown County.
- J. An accessible portolet unit has been added to other such units located at the parking area at the South end of Pawleys Island.
- K. A curb cut and two handicapped parking spaces have been installed on Screven Street, in a location nearest to the path of travel to the Screven St. courthouse entrance. Ramp and door improvements have been made to this entrance.
- L. The County Annex ramp has been improved by adding an extension to the handrail.
- M. Signage indicating the nearest accessible entrance has been added at courthouse entrances.
- N. A platform lift has been installed on the second floor of the courthouse achieving access to the present jury rooms and law library.

- O. One unisex accessible restroom has been installed on the second and third floors of the courthouse.
- P. A counter for wheelchair access has been provided in the Auditor's Office and a drop shelf for similar uses has been installed in the Treasurer's Office.
- Q. Exterior changes at the Murrells Inlet Community Center include four new handicap parking spaces, an accessible path of travel to the entry door and the existing ramp have been improved to achieve compliance with ADA.
- R. The parking pad has been enlarged at the Santee Community Center. Men's and women's restrooms have been improved to provide access.
- S. A designated handicap parking space has been installed (paved) at the Andrews Community Center and an accessible path of travel to the existing ramp is now provided.
- T. Paved handicapped parking spaces have been installed at the Howard Recreation Center with an accessible path of travel to the front entrance. A ramp has been installed and is in compliance with ADA.
- U. To single-sex restrooms have been installed at the Howard Recreation Center.
- V. A paved designated handicapped parking space and a clear path of travel have been added to the Bobby Alford Center at East Bay Park.
- W. A paved handicapped parking area and path of travel have been added to the Lambertown fire station, which is used for voting.
- X. The ramp at the County Services Building has been improved by adding a second handrail. A van-accessible parking space has been added.

III. Improvement Needs Identified in 2014

A. County Courthouse and Annex Interior Changes

- 1. One unisex-accessible bathroom must be installed on the first floor of the courthouse
- 2. An evacuation plan and system of visual audible emergency alarms should be installed.

B. County Recreation & Leisure Services Division Buildings

- 1. Murrells Inlet Community Center
The magistrate's court must be modified to achieve access to the jury box, bench and witness stand. Access to the auditorium stage must be provided by a platform lift, ramp or other means.
- 2. Santee Community Center
The threshold at the entrance door must be brought to ground level. Access to the stage must be provided by a platform lift, ramp or other means.
- 3. Andrews Community Center
A unisex accessible restroom must be provided. A new section of bleachers, which will include access for wheelchair users should be installed opposite the existing box bleachers. Access could be

achieved through some on floor seating located at the end of the existing bleachers.

4. Winyah Recreation Center

A curb cut, accessible path of travel, and a new front door complying with ADA standards must be installed. Currently, there is no handicap accessibility to this facility. Accessible bleacher units must be provided. Access could be achieved through some on floor seating located at the end of the existing bleachers.

5. Howard Recreation Center

A platform lift must be installed to provide access to the stage area.

6. Bobby Alford Center

A unisex-accessible restroom must be provided.

C. Other County Recreation & Leisure Services Facilities

Access must be provided to tennis courts at East Bay Park by installation of a parking pad, transfer area and a clear path of travel. Access to outside restroom facilities at all ball fields including those at Andrews Park, East Bay Park and Wachesaw Park are non-compliant. The concession stands at these fields are non-compliant.

D. County Services Building

An elevator should be installed to achieve compliance with ADAAG. The alteration has to comply with 4.1.6 (General Rules Re: Alterations), which requires compliance with 4.1.3 (5), which requires an elevator.

E. Georgetown County Planning Director's Office

The existing front door provides no wheelchair access. The threshold must be brought down to ground level or a handicap ramp installed at another entrance. There is currently no accessible bathroom in this building. The location of the existing bathroom makes strict compliance with the requirements of ADAAG difficult to achieve. ADAAG does not require "technically infeasible" changes, and moving the wall to increase the size of the existing bathroom is structurally impractical.

F. (TDD) Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf should be located in all County Offices

IV. Completed Improvements 2005 - 2014

A. County Courthouse

1. Two, single-sex accessible restrooms were installed on the first floor of the courthouse building.
2. A system of visual and audible alarms was installed in the courthouse, with alarms / strobe lights integrated with a PA system.

B. County Planning Director's Office / Economic Development

1. In 2004, the County Planning & Economic Development Director and staff moved from this building. The building is currently occupied by the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service. The entryway has been made fully accessible with the installation of a ramp constructed on the west side of the building.
2. The Economic Development function separated from Planning, with the Economic Development staff relocating to a new, single-story building with a ramped, accessible front entrance.

C. County Services Building / Emergency Services

The following County functions/staff have been relocated from the second floor of the County Services Building to the new City of Georgetown Law Enforcement Center: Communications/911, Emergency Services and Emergency Preparedness. The new building is fully ADA-accessible.

D. Sheriff's Department Relocation

The County Sheriff's Department was relocated from a County structure on Cleland St. in the City of Georgetown, to a renovated County School District building (Bynum Center) on N. Frazier St. While the building is a two-story structure without an elevator, all public access areas are on the first floor, which is ADA-accessible. Also, there is an ADA-accessible, unisex bathroom on the first floor.

E. County Recreation & Leisure Services Buildings/Facilities

1. Santee Community Center

The primary entranceway has been made accessible. Two, new ADA-accessible restrooms have been constructed. An accessible, on-grade, lighted and paved walking path has been installed on the grounds primarily to serve senior recreational needs. Similar lighted facilities have been installed at Lambertown Park and Sampit Park.

2. Andrews Community Center

This facility had been leased by Georgetown County from the Town of Andrews. Georgetown County no longer leases this facility.

3. Winyah Recreation Center

An accessible entryway has been installed with a ramp, new lighting and appropriate signage. A curb cut was installed in proximity to

the entryway, and a wheelchair seating area has been provided alongside existing bleachers in the gym.

4. Howard Recreation Center

The women's and men's restrooms have been renovated and are ADA-accessible. Braille signs have been installed.

5. Dunbar Park Community Center

A surplus School District building was relocated to Dunbar Park and converted into a community center with a ramp to the primary entry, and ADA-accessible restrooms.

6. Plantersville Community Center

A parking pad was installed with a ramp to the front entrance. Two, new ADA-accessible restrooms were installed with signage.

7. Beach Access Areas

ADA-accessible beach access areas were constructed at North Litchfield and Garden City Beaches:

North Litchfield Beach - Access area #3 – was reconstructed to be both wheelchair and emergency vehicular accessible.

Garden City Beach - Access area #11 was reconstructed to be ADA-accessible, with a parking pad, designated parking, and accessible portolets.

Access area #42 was reconstructed to be both wheelchair and emergency vehicular accessible.

8. Boat Landings/Fishing Piers/Waterfront Walkways

ADA-accessible docks have been constructed at the Sandy Island and Pumphouse Boat Landings. The west side Winyah Bay Observation and Fishing Pier has been made accessible; the east side Hobcaw Point Fishing Pier, which is currently under reconstruction with a completion date of spring, 2005, will be ADA-accessible with designated parking located in close proximity to the pier.

The Murrells Inlet Marshwalk, a 1,500-foot long wooden walkway, has been constructed as a waterfront, public pedestrian thoroughfare. Located at the rear of several restaurants adjacent to the Murrells Inlet Creek and Marsh, it is ADA-accessible along its entire length. It has accessible entry points from at least four parking areas and public walkways. An additional 700 feet of contiguous walkway, which is now under construction with a completion date of spring 2005, will adjoin existing sections, extend eastward into the marsh, and will eventually become a fishing pier extending to the federal channel. It will be fully ADA-accessible.

9. Ball Fields

Improvements have been made at East Bay Park where a clear path of travel from parking areas to the tennis courts has been established, with on-grade entry. At Wachesaw Park, the concession stand is now accessible, with an on-grade concrete pad surrounding the building.

10. Recreation & Leisure Services Building

A new access ramp was added to this structure.

V. Pending Improvements 2015

The following items remain priorities for Georgetown County to achieve equal and integrated access at its buildings and facilities.

- A. Public restroom accessibility at all athletic fields and concession buildings.
- B. Wheelchair accessibility for stages through the use of ramps and/or lifts at all County auditoriums, Community Centers and Recreation Centers.
- C. County Services Building: installation of an elevator. At the present time, public needs can be addressed on the first floor, which is ADA-accessible. However, the future needs of physically challenged employees who may have to be located on the second floor must be addressed.
- D. All Magistrate's Courts need modification to achieve access to jury boxes, the bench and witness stand.
- E. Bobby Alford Center, East Bay Park: a unisex accessible bathroom must be installed.
- F. (TDD) Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf should be located in all County Offices.
- G. Braille Signage should be installed in all County buildings as required.