

# REPORT TO THE CITY OF HELENA

## Section 14: Exploration Works

August 5, 2015

### Legend of Abbreviations

**aff...** above the finished floor (or  
above the finished ground)  
**AR...** Accessible Route  
**CIL...** Change in Level  
**CFS...** Clear Floor Space  
**lbf...** Pounds of Force

**Background**

RAC staff conducted an access audit at the Exploration Works. Our findings are below.

1.1 **Parking** – not applicable

1.2 **Exterior Accessible Route (includes common area and stairs)-**  
[\[CHECKLIST-EAR\]](#) [\[CHECKLIST-STAIRS\]](#)

Exterior Route: little free library 56” aff [EW28](#), [EW29](#); unstable woodchip portions to site elements [EW21](#); 1.5” CIL where cement drops off to gravel near entry [EW22](#), [EW23](#); 1” CIL at other entry [EW24](#), [EW25](#); 9.9% running slope to entry [EW26](#), [EW27](#); AR fails to connect all sites [EW33](#), [EW34](#); noncompliant signage along AR (checklist)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.2.1 through 1.2.5 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Exterior Route)**

- 1.2.1 **Lower operating mechanisms** along AR to max 48” aff to highest operable part (EW28, EW29)
- 1.2.2 **Create AR** with crushed and compacted stone or similar outdoor material from parking or sidewalk to site elements (EW21, EW33, EW34)
- 1.2.3 **Repair, bevel, or ramp** CIL along AR (EW22, EW23, EW24, EW25)
- 1.2.4 **Correct or repair** sidewalk running slope along AR to max 5% (EW26, EW27)
- 1.2.5 **Replace signage** along AR with compliant signage (checklist)

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Stairs: treads lack contrast [EW176](#); top step lacks detectable warning [EW177](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.2.1 through 1.2.2 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Stairs)**

- 1.2.1 **Provide** contrast on leading 2” of stair treads (EW176)
- 1.2.2 **Install** detectable warning strip on top tread of each stairway as a smart practice (EW177)

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1.3 Exterior Entry Signage - not applicable

1.4 Exterior Entry Doors - [\[CHECKLIST\]](#)

Maneuvering Clearance: stair exit – 10” wall on push [EW1](#), [EW2](#); exit to patio – unable to open [EW5](#); basement exit – stairs and storage [EW175](#)

LBF: 4 of 4 doors with closers exceed 8.5 lbf (checklist)

Closer: 2 of 4 doors with closers close fast (checklist)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.4.1 through 1.4.5 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

**NOTE: providing maneuvering clearance is sometimes accomplished by removing temporary barriers such as garbage cans or chairs, or removing and rehanging doors to open in opposite direction, removing closers, providing power door openers, or other similar means. For reference to the technical standards for doorway maneuvering clearance, see Chapter 4, [section 404](#) of the 2010 Standards.**

- 1.4.1 For all doors along the public circulation route, **provide** required maneuvering clearance on push and pull side of doors (EW1, EW2, EW5, EW175)
- 1.4.2 No maneuvering clearance at door due to stairs, **leave as is**, correction is technically infeasible (EW175)
- 1.4.3 For all doors along the public circulation route, **inspect, adjust, and maintain** 8.5 lbf to open exterior doors as a smart practice (checklist)
- 1.4.4 For all doors along the public circulation route, **inspect, adjust, and maintain** closing speed on door closers (checklist)
- 1.4.5 **Upon renovation**; make above corrections to employee only doors

Responsible Employee	Progress Towards Completion	Recommended Phase
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1.5 Elevator or Lift - [\[CHECKLIST\]](#) garbage in CFS [EW77](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.5.1 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

- 1.5.1 **Remove or relocate** storage in elevator CFS (EW77)

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1.6 Interior Doors - [\[CHECKLIST\]](#)

Maneuvering Clearance: classroom to break – table and lamp pull side, counter push side [EW3](#), [EW4](#); office – desk on pull side (checklist); inter office – chair on pull side [EW6](#); fire sprinkler room – storage back pull side [EW7](#); basement wood shop – storage on pull side [EW8](#); boiler room – storage on pull side (checklist); basement office – trash can pull side [EW9](#); server room – shelf pull side, no access [EW10](#); storage room – cart pull side [EW11](#); inter cell block closet – water heater pull side [EW12](#); large supply closet – storage on push side [EW13](#); craft closet – shelf on pull side (checklist); basement men’s restroom – 8” to wall on push side [EW14](#), [EW15](#), 13” to urinal on pull [EW17](#), [EW18](#); fire door to basement – 14” to wall pull side [EW19](#), [EW20](#)

Hardware: basement men’s restroom – small [EW16](#); basement women’s restroom – small (checklist)

LBF: 8 of 9 doors with closer exceed 5 lbf (checklist)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.6.1 through 1.6.4 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

**NOTE: providing maneuvering clearance is sometimes accomplished by removing temporary barriers such as garbage cans or chairs, or removing and rehanging doors to open in opposite direction, removing closers, providing power door openers, or other similar means. For reference to the technical standards for doorway maneuvering clearance, see Chapter 4, [section 404](#) of the 2010 Standards.**

- 1.6.1 For all doors along the public circulation route, **provide** required maneuvering clearance on push and pull side of doors (EW3, EW4, EW6, EW7, EW8, EW9, EW10, EW11, EW12, EW13, EW14, EW15, EW17, EW18, EW19, EW20, checklist)
- 1.6.2 For all doors along the public circulation route, **replace hardware** with lever hardware where indicated (EW16, checklist)
- 1.6.3 For all doors along the public circulation route, **inspect, adjust, and maintain 5 lbf** to open interior doors (checklist)
- 1.6.4 **Upon renovation**; make above corrections to employee only doors

Responsible Employee	Progress Towards Completion	Recommended Phase
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**1.7 Interior Accessible Route (includes common area and stairs) -**  
[\[CHECKLIST-INTERIOR\]](#) [\[CHECKLIST-STAIRS\]](#)

Interior Route: gaps at outlet covers in floor [EW73](#), [EW74](#), [EW75](#); 2<sup>nd</sup> floor exhibit has angled posts [EW76](#); drinking fountain single bowl [EW69](#); stool in drinking fountain toe clearance [EW69](#); drinking fountain knee clearance 24.5" [EW70](#), [EW69](#)

***Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.7.1 through 1.7.5 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Interior Route)***

- 1.7.1 **Correct** or fill gap long AR (EW73, EW74, EW75)
- 1.7.2 **Raise** angled posts to min 80", or pad object to prevent hazard in overhead clearance (EW76)
- 1.7.3 **Replace drinking fountain** with hi-lo bowl (EW69)
- 1.7.4 **Remove or relocate** storage at drinking fountain to allow toe clearance (EW69)
- 1.7.5 **Remount** drinking fountain to allow knee and toe clearance (EW70, EW69)

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Service Counter: gift shop counter 43.25" [EW71](#), [EW72](#)

***Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.7.1 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Service Counter)***

- 1.7.1 **Lower** 36" wide segment of service counter to max 36" aff (EW71, EW72)

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Stairs:

*Risers:* main stairs to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – 6.25”-7.25” [EW169](#), [EW170](#), [EW171](#); elevator stairs – 6.75”-7.5” [EW172](#), [EW173](#), [EW174](#)

*Tread Contrast:* main stairs to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (checklist); elevator stairs (checklist); to basement [EW178](#)

*Child Handrails:* main stairs to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – (checklist); to basement – (checklist)

***Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.7.1 through 1.7.4 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Stairs)***

- 1.7.1 **Correct riser heights** on stairs to consistent height between 4” to 7”, leave as is if technically infeasible (EW169, EW170, EW171, EW172, EW173, EW174)
- 1.7.2 **Provide** contrast on leading 2” of stair treads (EW178, checklist)
- 1.7.3 **Install** detectable warning strip on top tread of each stairway as a smart practice (checklist)
- 1.7.4 **Install** lowered handrail max 28” and 9” from top rail for children’s use as a smart practice (checklist)

<b>Responsible Employee</b>	<b>Progress Towards Completion</b>	<b>Recommended Phase</b>
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**1.8 Public Designated Use Spaces (includes classrooms, meeting rooms, special purpose rooms, and other spaces intended for use by the public) - [\[CHECKLIST\]](#)**

36” access aisle: robotics room – table [EW156](#)

80” overhead: little sky country – into barn (checklist)

Protruding Objects: gift shop – cashier counter [EW131](#); 2<sup>nd</sup> story exhibit – angled supports (checklist)

Floor Surfaces: little sky country – 1” CIL at ramp to barn [EW127](#), [EW128](#), 19.3% slope [EW129](#), [EW130](#); 2<sup>nd</sup> story exhibit – gaps at outlets on floor (checklist); robotics room – gap at sinking floor plate [EW157](#), [EW158](#)

Clear floor space: classroom – thermostat [EW133](#); robotics room – light switch, hooks [EW159](#)

Reach Range: gift shop – merchandise high [EW132](#); break room – fire extinguisher [EW136](#); robotics room – hooks 65.5” aff [EW160](#), [EW161](#)

Sinks: classroom – 35.5” aff [EW134](#), [EW135](#); break room – 36.5” aff [EW137](#), [EW138](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.8.1 through 1.8.9 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

- 1.8.1 **Relocate obstacles** to create AR through robotics room (EW156)
- 1.8.2 **Raise** to min 80", or pad object to prevent hazard in overhead clearance to barn in little sky country (checklist)
- 1.8.3 **Relocate protruding objects** in gift shop and angled supports or place cane detectable warning or bollard at foot of cashier counter and angled supports (EW131, checklist)
- 1.8.4 **Repair, bevel or ramp** CIL in rooms indicated (EW127, EW128)
- 1.8.5 **Correct or repair** slope to max 5% running and 2.08% cross or provide a compliant ramp with handrails (EW129, EW130)
- 1.8.6 **Correct** or fill gaps (EW157, EW158, checklist)
- 1.8.7 **Remove, or relocate storage** in CFS at fixtures and operable parts (EW133, EW159)
- 1.8.8 **Lower operating mechanisms** to max 48" aff to highest operable part; leave as is if employee only operated (EW132, EW136, EW160, EW161)
- 1.8.9 **Lower** sink heights to max 34" aff (EW134, EW135, EW137, EW138)

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**1.9 Employee Offices and Spaces - [\[CHECKLIST\]](#)**

36" access aisle: fire room – storage [EW143](#), [EW144](#); wood shop – storage to back shelving [EW146](#); interoffice – furniture [EW142](#); basement office – table chair placement [EW152](#), [EW153](#); large storage closet – storage [EW164](#), [EW165](#), [EW166](#); craft closet – storage [EW168](#)

80" overhead: wood shop – overhead outlets [EW147](#)

60" turning space: fire room – storage [EW143](#), [EW144](#); supply room – storage [EW150](#), [EW151](#); interoffice – furniture [EW142](#); storage room – storage [EW162](#); intercell – small [EW163](#); craft closet – storage [EW168](#)

Protruding Objects: fire room – panels [EW145](#)

Clear floor space: office – hooks [EW139](#); interoffice – window controls [EW140](#), [EW141](#); fire room – storage [EW144](#); wood shop – storage at numerous parts [EW148](#); basement office – thermostat [EW154](#); large storage room – light switch [EW167](#)

Reach Range: office – thermostat, hooks [EW139](#); wood shop – some supplies high [EW149](#); basement office – thermostat, hooks [EW154](#), [EW155](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.9.1 through 1.9.3 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

- 1.9.1 Employee only area permit approach, entry, and exit, **relocate obstacles** to create AR through rooms indicated (EW143, EW144, EW146, EW142, EW152, EW153, EW164, EW165, EW166, EW168)
- 1.9.2 Employee only areas permit approach, entry, and exit, **relocate obstacles** to create turning space of 60" in rooms indicated (EW143, EW144, EW150, EW151, EW142, EW162, EW163, EW168)
- 1.9.3 For all other deficits, **leave as is**, employee work area pursuant to 2010 Standards 106.5 Defined Terms, until an employee with a disability works here (EW147, EW139, EW140, EW141, EW144, EW148, EW149, EW154, EW155, EW167)

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**1.10 Assembly Areas - not applicable**

**1.11 Restrooms - [[CHECKLIST-MULTIPLE USERS](#)]**

Basement-

*Both:* signage lacks symbol of accessibility [EW116](#); hooks high [EW117](#), [EW118](#), [EW124](#); compartment dimensions fail for floor mounted toilet [EW119](#), [EW120](#), [EW122](#); rear wall grab bar mounted incorrect [EW121](#), [EW125](#); stall door not self-closing, lacks exterior hardware [EW123](#); stall door located directly in front of toilet (checklist)

*Women's:* stall door hardware small [EW126](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.11.1 through 1.11.8 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Multiple Users - Basement)**

- 1.11.1 **Acquire and mount** signage for both, including Braille and access symbol mounted on wall, latch side of door, 48" to baseline of lowest character and 60" to baseline of highest character (EW116)
- 1.11.2 **Lower hooks** in both accessible stalls to max 48" aff (EW117, EW118, EW124)
- 1.11.3 **Widen** accessible stalls to min. 60" clear width, 59" depth (EW119, EW120, EW122)
- 1.11.4 **Remount rear grab bar** to behind the toilet, 12" to one side of center and 24" to the other and 33" to 36" aff in both (EW121, EW125)
- 1.11.5 **Adjust** stall doors in both to be self-closing (checklist)

- 1.11.6 **Acquire and install** exterior stall hardware that is operable without a tight pinch or grasp in both (EW123)
- 1.11.7 **Rehang** stall doors in both to be max 4" from adjacent stall partition and on the stall wall farthest from the toilet (checklist)
- 1.11.8 **Replace** women's interior stall hardware with hardware operable without a tight pinch or grasp (EW126)

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Lime Green - [[CHECKLIST-SINGLE USER](#)] signage low [EW79](#), [EW80](#); toilet centerline fails [EW81](#), [EW82](#); seat height low [EW83](#), [EW84](#); toilet paper dispenser too close [EW85](#), [EW86](#); mirror height high [EW87](#), [EW88](#); paper towels protrude [EW114](#), [EW115](#); garbage in CFS at sink [EW89](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.11.1 through 1.11.7 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Single Users – Lime Green)**

- 1.11.1 **Remount** signage on wall, latch side of the door, 48" to baseline of lowest character and 60" to baseline of highest character (EW79, EW80)
- 1.11.2 **Remount** toilet to 16" to 18" from the side wall to centerline (EW81, EW82)
- 1.11.3 **Replace toilet seat, or re-set or replace toilet** to 17" to 19" aff (EW83, EW84)
- 1.11.4 **Remount toilet paper dispenser** max 7" to 9" from front of toilet, 15" to 48" aff and min 12" above or 1.5" below grab bar (EW85, EW86)
- 1.11.5 **Lower mirror** so reflective surface is max 40" aff (EW87, EW88)
- 1.11.6 **Relocate or recess** towel dispenser to not interfere with general circulation path, protrusions can't be greater than 4" (EW114, EW115)
- 1.11.7 **Remove or relocate** storage to allow CFS at operable parts (EW89)

Responsible Employee	Progress Towards Completion	Recommended Phase
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Turquoise - [[CHECKLIST-SINGLE USER](#)]

Women's: signage lacks CFS due to drinking fountain [EW101](#); toilet centerline fails [EW90](#), [EW91](#); toilet seat height high [EW83](#), [EW84](#); grab bars mounted high aff [EW92](#), [EW94](#); toilet paper dispenser too close [EW97](#); mirror height high [EW107](#), [EW108](#); paper towels 55" aff [EW95](#), [EW96](#); paper towels protrude (checklist); garbage in CFS at sink [EW100](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.11.1 through 1.11.8 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Single Users - Turquoise)**

- 1.11.1 **Relocate** drinking fountain for CFS at sign (EW101)
- 1.11.2 **Remount** toilets to 16" to 18" from the side wall to centerline (EW90, EW91)
- 1.11.3 **Replace toilet seat, or re-set or replace toilet** to 17" to 19" aff (EW83, EW84)
- 1.11.4 **Remount** grab bars to 33" to 36" aff (EW92, EW94)
- 1.11.5 **Remount toilet paper dispenser** max 7" to 9" from front of toilet, 15" to 48" aff and min 12" above or 1.5" below grab bar (EW97)
- 1.11.6 **Lower mirror** so reflective surface is max 40" aff (EW107, EW108)
- 1.11.7 **Relocate or recess** towel dispenser and lower to max 48" to not interfere with general circulation path, protrusions can't be greater than 4" (EW95, EW96, checklist)
- 1.11.8 **Remove or relocate** storage to allow CFS at operable parts (EW100)

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Light Blue - [[CHECKLIST-SINGLE USER](#)]

Men's: toilet centerline fails [EW102](#), [EW103](#); toilet seat height high (checklist); grab bars mounted high aff [EW104](#), [EW105](#); toilet paper dispenser too close (checklist); mirror height high [EW98](#), [EW99](#); paper towels protrude (checklist); garbage in CFS at sink [EW106](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.11.1 through 1.11.7 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Single Users – Light Blue)**

- 1.11.1 **Remount** toilet to 16" to 18" from the side wall to centerline (EW102, EW103)
- 1.11.2 **Replace toilet seat, or re-set or replace toilet** to 17" to 19" aff (checklist)
- 1.11.3 **Remount** grab bars to 33" to 36" aff (EW104, EW105)
- 1.11.4 **Remount toilet paper dispenser** max 7" to 9" from front of toilet, 15" to 48" aff and min 12" above or 1.5" below grab bar (checklist)
- 1.11.5 **Lower mirror** so reflective surface is max 40" aff (EW98, EW99)
- 1.11.6 **Relocate or recess** towel dispenser to not interfere with general circulation path, protrusions can't be greater than 4" (checklist)
- 1.11.7 **Remove or relocate** storage to allow CFS at operable parts (EW106)

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Unisex - [[CHECKLIST-SINGLE USER](#)] toilet seat height low (checklist); toilet paper dispenser mounting fails (checklist); mirror height high [EW111](#), [EW112](#); paper towels protrude [EW114](#), [EW115](#); stool and garbage at sink CFS [EW113](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.11.1 through 1.11.5 is integral to compliance with title II program access test): (Single Users – Unisex)**

- 1.11.1 **Replace toilet seat, or re-set or replace toilet** to 17” to 19” aff (checklist)
- 1.11.2 **Remount toilet paper dispenser** max 7” to 9” from front of toilet, 15” to 48” aff and min 12” above or 1.5” below grab bar (checklist)
- 1.11.3 **Lower mirror** so reflective surface is max 40” aff (EW111, EW112)
- 1.11.4 **Relocate or recess** towel dispenser to not interfere with general circulation path, protrusions can’t be greater than 4” (EW114, EW115)
- 1.11.5 **Remove or relocate** storage to allow CFS at sink (EW113)

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1.12 **Kitchen/Concessions** - not applicable

1.13 **Locker Rooms** - not applicable

1.14 **Aural and Visual Alarms** - not applicable

1.15 **Directional and Permanent Space Signs** - [[CHECKLIST](#)] some signage height fails (checklist); exit signs fail (checklist)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.15.1 through 1.15.3 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

- 1.15.1 **Create template for signs** that addresses height of sign, size of characters, location of Braille, and other requirements (checklist)
- 1.15.2 **Implement a sign revision program** throughout the building, discriminating between directional signs and signs for permanent spaces (checklist)
- 1.15.3 **Mount signage** at all permanent rooms/spaces having Braille and the international symbol of accessibility, mounted 48” to baseline of lowest character and 60” to the baseline of the highest character sign and on the latch side of the door (checklist)

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**1.16 Exhibit Spaces - [CHECKLIST]**

36" Access Aisle: *Outside Exhibits:* music path – woodchips [EW30](#), [EW31](#), [EW32](#); garden – grass route [EW35](#)

Accessible Route: *Outside Exhibits:* music path – noncompliant surface (checklist)

Floor Surface: *First floor Exhibits:* hurricane – steps to access [EW39](#); nano information tables – outlet gap at “what does nano mean” table [EW45](#), [EW46](#); *Second Floor Exhibits:* fish tank – steps [EW59](#); hurricane table – stairs [EW66](#); garden – noncompliant surface (checklist)

Clear Floor Space: *First floor Exhibits:* hurricane simulator – 36” diameter circle in exhibit (checklist); feel a magnetic field – steps [EW57](#); *Second Floor Exhibits:* fish tank – steps [EW59](#); shape your language – table lacks knee clearance, 22.75” wide [EW63](#), [EW64](#); microscope word – tables lack knee and toe clearance [EW65](#); hurricane table – lacks CFS at building side due to steps [EW66](#)

Reach Range: *First floor Exhibits:* waterworks – coat hooks 57.5” [EW40](#), [EW41](#); momentum coaster – cars floor level [EW42](#), finish line 7” aff [EW43](#), [EW44](#); nano information tables – flip signs hard to manipulate at “where can you find nano?” table [EW47](#); nano zone interactive tables – magnets at magnet table require squeeze [EW48](#), [EW49](#); gear table – gears require pinch [EW50](#), [EW51](#); magnet shapes table – magnets require pinch to manipulate [EW52](#); pulley power – pulley 51”, requires pinch [EW53](#), [EW54](#), [EW55](#); feel a magnetic field – small pieces to manipulate [EW56](#); *Second Floor Exhibits:* fish tank – counter 43” [EW58](#), [EW59](#); shape table – table 34.5” [EW61](#), [EW62](#); words wall – words are hard to grasp [EW67](#), [EW68](#); *Outside Exhibits:* garden – wire at gate 61” agl [EW36](#), [EW37](#)

Protruding Objects: *First floor Exhibits:* waterworks - coat hooks [EW41](#)

**Recommendations (Exploration Works is a site designated as accessible so 1.16.1 through 1.16.8 is integral to compliance with title II program access test):**

- 1.16.1 **Create AR** with crushed and compacted stone or similar outdoor material from parking or sidewalk to music path and garden (EW30, EW31, EW32, EW35)
- 1.16.2 **Provide** a ramp for access to hurricane (EW39)
- 1.16.3 **Correct** or fill gaps (EW45, EW46)
- 1.16.4 **Remove, or relocate storage** in CFS at fixtures and operable parts or provide ramp for access (EW57, EW59, EW66, checklist)

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- 1.16.5 **Replace** one table at shape your language and microscope word exhibits with one min 36” wide and allowing knee and toe clearance, max surface at 34” (EW63, EW64, EW65, EW58, EW59, EW61, EW62)
- 1.16.6 **Lower or raise operating mechanisms** to min 15” or max 48” aff to highest operable part (EW40, EW41, EW42, EW43, EW44, EW48, EW58, EW59, EW36, EW37)
- 1.16.7 **Replace operable parts** with ones not requiring a tight pinch or grasp to operate (EW47, EW49, EW50, EW51, EW52, EW53, EW54, EW55, EW56, EW67, EW68)
- 1.16.8 **Relocate protruding objects** in water works or place cane detectable warning or bollard at foot of coat hooks (EW41)

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