

# GUIDE TO ACCESSIBLE AND ADAPTABLE DESIGNS FOR GARDEN SUITES

The needs of individuals should be taken into consideration in the interior and exterior design of a garden suite. To ensure maximum access and use of a garden suite by all people regardless of their age or ability, the following standards should be applied:

## Site Circulation and Building Access

- An accessible path to allow travel from the main entrance of the garden suite to the street, parking, and garbage and recycling areas
- The path should be Smooth surfaced allow for easy navigation using a mobility aid
- Well-lit path and building entrance
- Unobstructed (no step) access to the garden suite
- Wide doorways and level thresholds to accommodate mobility aids
- Wiring to accommodate future installation of an automatic door
- Accessible door handles
- Easy to read building address

## Interior Circulation

- \* Wide corridor (1.2 m minimum)
- \* Wide door clearance (0.9 m minimum)
- \* Sufficient turning radius to accommodate a mobility aid inside the main entrance (1.5 m minimum)
- \* Sufficient space between a bed and closet in a bedroom (1.2 m minimum)
- In a two-storey garden suite, a room on the main level that can be used as a master bedroom
- \* Level threshold onto patio and sufficient turning radius on patio (1.5 m minimum)
- Accessible door handles and facets

## Universal Design -

Also known as inclusive design or barrier-free design - is the design and organization of an environment to ensure maximum legibility, accessibility and utility to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age or ability.

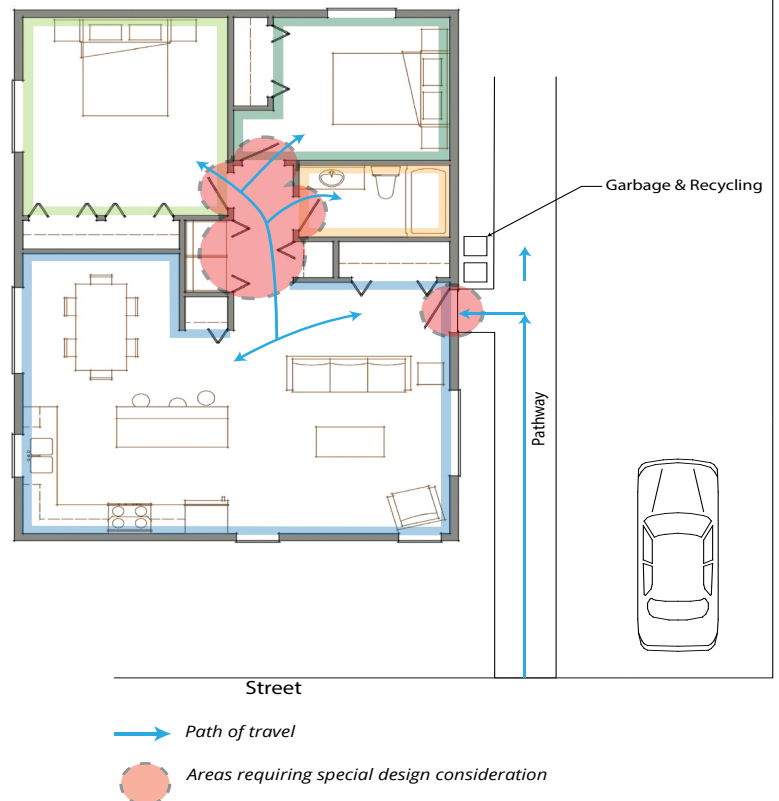


Figure 1: Accessible Travel Path for a Garden Suite

- \* = Code Requirement
- = Non-Code Requirement

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## Kitchen Design

- Continuous counter between sink and stove
- Adjustable shelves in cabinets
- Accessible cupboard handles
- Task lighting in work areas
- \* Pull out work boards (0.8 m high)

## Bathroom Design

- In a two-storey garden suite, include a full function three-piece bathroom on the main level
- \* A wheelchair turning radius of 1.5 m minimum
- \* Wide door clearance (0.9 m minimum)
- Solid backing behind tub and shower, and next to the toilet for future installation of grab bars
- Tub control valves offset to outside edge of tub or shower
- Removable cabinet under bathroom sink to create space for a person in a mobility
- Adjustable or handheld shower head

## Laundry Room Design

- Provision of space to allow for side-by-side front-loading washer and dryer

## Design for Electrical Elements

- Additional three-way switch outlet in bedroom to allow control of lights from the bed
- Rocker switches
- Switches, controls, thermostat no higher than 1.2 m
- \* Electrical outlets, cable outlets, telephone jacks, no lower than 0.46 m
- Provisions for future installation of a visual alarm system in the living room and bedroom

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