



Visitable Design

Bridgewater Forest, located in southwest Winnipeg, is one of Canada's first new developments to offer a selection of homes designed with wide doors and hallways and no-step entries for everyone's comfort and convenience. Now, getting into a beautiful Bridgewater Forest home is easy for all.

The design is called "visitable housing", a concept that makes entry and movement easier for anyone looking for the convenience of no-step entries and wider doorways and hallways. Arlt Homes, Artista Homes and Maric Homes, have constructed three visitable show homes that recently opened for the 2010 fall parade of Homes. The homes feature a no-step entry, a wheelchair accessible main floor bathroom, wide doors and hallways for convenient interior circulation for young families with strollers and for those with mobility challenges. These features make everyday living – from bringing in groceries or moving furniture – easier.

Visitable housing is the concept of designing and building homes with a basic level of accessibility for everyone. Located on an accessible route, a home with visitable features includes a no-step entrance that is a minimum of 36 inches wide; and wider hallways a minimum of 32 inches wide, with clear passage throughout and a wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor.

Homes with visitable features demonstrate the first stage of what is called "universal design". Other features may be added inexpensively to improve the convenience and suitability of a home. These may include reinforced bathroom walls for the installation of grab bars, levered door handles and single-lever kitchen and bathroom faucets, raised electrical outlets, lowered climate controls, and lowered light switches. Homes designed with visitable features make life simpler and more convenient for everyone.

Visitable lots are currently available in Phases 2 and 3 of Bridgewater Forest. Additional visitable lots will be available in Bridgewater's second neighbourhood which will feature up to 50% visitable lots. Called Bridgewater Lakes, the second neighbourhood will offer lots to designated builders as early as 2011.

For more information visit: manitoba.ca/housing

To find out more about Winnipeg's top selling new residential neighbourhood visit:

www.bridgewaterforest.com