

Digital Accessibility Progress-to-Date Report

April 1, 2025

The Highlands Ranch Metro District has demonstrated concrete and specific efforts toward compliance with digital accessibility standards on the front-facing web pages of highlandsranch.org. This progress report will be updated on a quarterly basis.



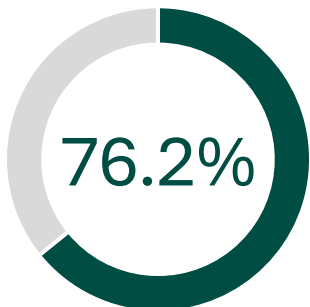
Site accessibility score from Check My District scan

- Maintained score from January and October's progress reports, which were also 99%
- Scan performed March 25, 2025



Issues identified through manual audit remediated

- Maintained progress from January and October's progress reports, which had 8 remediated issues; July's progress report had 7 remediated issues
- 17 of the remaining identified issues have been shared with Granicus, the website developer and host, for evaluation and repair
- 3 of the remaining identified issues are related to Helper Helper, a volunteer management platform that is currently being evaluated for continued use



PDF documents that are fully PDF/UA and WCAG 2.1 compliant

- Improved from January's progress report, which was 64.2%; from October's progress report, which was 52.5%; and from July's progress report, which was 36.8%
- 206 PDFs fully remediated, which is an improvement from 142 in January, 102 in October and 69 in July
- The remaining PDFs are being prioritized for remediation based on downloads and page visits

Overview of compliance efforts to date

The Metro District is committed to providing equitable access of information technology to all website visitors. The Metro District has taken steps to identify accessibility barriers, remediate issues, and implement a plan to meet website ADA compliance and sustain it for the long-term.

Manual Testing and Evaluation

The Metro District contracted with Be Accessible, Inc. to complete an accessibility audit on the Metro District's website. The audit checked conformance of the site to WCAG 2.1 Level AA guidelines. The audit involved a combination of semi-automated evaluation tools as well as manual evaluation by an experienced auditor. A usability lab that includes testing by disabled individuals was also used to locate accessibility barriers.

While testing the site, NVDA with Firefox and JAWS with Chrome were the primary screen readers used. Other screen readers were used as needed. Rocket by Be Accessible was the primary resource used for automated testing.

The website was also manually tested for conformance including and not limited to testing for keyboard-only users, text zoom, color contrast, and testing performed by a usability lab with disabled testers. Disabled testers were provided a list of tasks to complete on the website including locating specific information and completing form elements.

The audit results provided March 12, 2024, reported the website does not meet WCAG 2.1 AA conformance.

Remediation

Upon receipt of the audit results from Be Accessible, staff has been taking steps to address the issues.

- Reviewed audit results and broke it out by responsibility; issues staff were capable of fixing, and issues Granicus, the website developer and host, would be responsible for.
- Staff began fixing issues identified in the audit. Examples include adding alt text to all images, remediating necessary PDF documents, updating infographics, removing unnecessary images, graphs and charts, updating page content for ADA accessible formatting, etc.
- Created a website accessibility plan and an improved accessibility grievance procedure, which are both featured prominently on the website.
- Ongoing staff training for new procedures to create accessible information.