



## Universal Design and Aging in Place

*Welcoming senior residents to independent living in the City*

Everyone wants to remain in the home they love, and live a long, healthy life where they can take care of themselves, accomplish daily tasks independently and enjoy the benefits of living in a community. To do this, a homeowner needs to live in a community where products, services and conveniences are available, and also to possess a home where flexibility of living arrangements has been pre-planned. The principles of Universal Design encourage residential design to accommodate the widest range of users, including people with diverse abilities and preferences.

*Some of these tenets as they relate to aging in place are:*

- Adapt the main floor for one level living with no steps between rooms.
- Widen doorways to 36" with offset hinges.
- Install handheld shower heads and grab bars.
- Use lever handles on doors and plumbing fixtures.

At Huntley, the possibility of having this is accomplished through our "One Level Living" design. The Master Bedroom is placed on the ground floor with the major living space, doors have been widened and a no step entry from the garage can be incorporated. Careful planning ensures wall blocking is already in place should grab bars need to be installed in bathrooms and showers. Retrofitting a home without this kind of planning can be cost prohibitive, but R.L. Beyer hopes this foresight will reduce the need to move as circumstances change in homeowner's lives.



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