

Annual Multi Year Accessibility Plan Report

City of Guelph

Date: 2023

Introduction

The City of Guelph's commitment to Accessibility compliance is firmly aligned with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The organization strives to identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility in key areas such as customer service, information access, public transportation, employment, and public spaces. With a focus on meeting and exceeding the standards set by the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR), the City of Guelph ensures that its policies and multi-year accessibility plan are not only up to date but also publicly available, reflecting a transparent and inclusive approach to accessibility.

Achievements

Several projects took place during 2023 that either incorporate accessibility requirements or were completed because of the City's commitment to equitable in its services, programs, and facilities.

Recreation trails and outdoor play spaces:

- Project introduction: Emma Street to Earl Street Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge
- Redesign of Silvercreek Park: washroom renovations & picnic shelter
- Draft design for trail curb cut standard
- South End Community Centre (SECC): recreational trail and design review
- Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan including the playground rubber surface strategy
- Riverside Park: bandshell renovations and new trails
- Margaret Greene Park - new splash pad
- Annual Play Equipment Lifecycle Project
- Complete Streets Design Guide: Proposed Pedestrian and Cyclist Crossing

Transit and taxis: conventional services, bus stop design, taxis

- Review of bus stop with shelter design in the Linear Infrastructure Standards

On-street parking relating to the following

- Downtown Guelph Parking Master Plan to include accessible parking at the planning stage and throughout the development of the plan
- Complete Streets Design Guide Project
- Seasonal Patio Program to minimize impacts to the accessible parking in the downtown during patio season

Site Plan Internal Review Report

- Both Accessibility Services Team and the Accessibility Advisory Committee continue to participate on the internal site plan review process

Challenges and Improvements

Early involvement of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) and the Accessibility Services Team has steadily improved over the years as departments develop plans that guide their work. Departments are engaging the AAC more frequently throughout the implementation of the plans

to ensure that barriers are identified during all stages of service and program delivery. Guelph Transit is a good example the benefits of frequent engagement with the AAC.

Conclusion

As we look towards the coming year, the commitment to accessibility compliance is not only a legal mandate but a moral imperative. The evolving landscape of web accessibility, highlighted by the anticipated growth of the global web accessibility software market and the increasing importance of digital inclusivity, underscores the need to continue to align with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). By embracing the latest trends and technologies, we can ensure that our digital spaces are welcoming and accessible to all, thereby fulfilling the AODA's vision of a barrier-free Ontario.

For an accessible version of this document, questions or feedback, please contact accessibility@guelph.ca or 519-822-1260 or TTY 519-826-9771