

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report CAO Report 09-2021

Council Meeting Date: July 13, 2021

TO: Mayor Weber and Members of Council
FROM: Kevin Williams, Chief Administrative Officer
RE: Lambton Shores Accessibility Plan 2020 Status Update

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT CAO Report 09-2021 providing an update to the status of the Lambton Shores 2020-2022 Accessibility Plan be received; and

THAT the Plan update be posted on the municipal website.

SUMMARY

The Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee worked through 2019 to develop a 2020-2022 Multi-year Accessibility Plan that was subsequently presented to and approved by Council. The Plan has been posted on the municipal website and has provided guidance to advancing accessibility initiatives over the past year. This report is provided as an annual update to the plan. For the purposes of consolidation, an updated plan reflecting the recommended changes is provided as an attachment to this report.

BACKGROUND

This Accessibility Status Report is provided as an update on the progress of the measures taken within Lambton Shores to improve accessibility and implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ontario Regulation 191/11). This Status Report includes the accessibility initiatives that were completed in 2020 following the strategies outlined in Lambton Shores' 2020-2022 Multi-Year Municipal Accessibility Plan. This report and the recommended changes have been reviewed and supported by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Updates to Schedule A

Table 1 – Identified Barriers

Barrier	Objective	Year Identified	Status
Work with Forest Dog Park initiative to plan entrance	Ensure entrance is appropriate for Accessibility needs	2019	Project cancelled by user group and will not be moving forward at this time
New Coultis Park washrooms to meet accessibility standards.	Provide input	2019	New accessible washroom facility has been installed
Grand Bend Beach House Family washroom	Automatic door opener	2019	TBD
Grand Bend Beach Access	Extend mobi-mat closer to water's edge	2019	2 Mobi-mats now available for seasonal installation and adjusted according to beach conditions
Grand Bend Beach water access device	Accessibility float device	2019	Purchased and available for public use
Port Franks CC Water Fountain too high	Consider 2-step fountain and fill station	2015	Exterior fountain installed in a barrier free area. Interior fountain to follow
Port Franks CC Improve signage to site amenities and accessible washrooms	Improve visual aids	2015	TBD
Grand Bend Lions Park Accessible Washroom	Provide accessible option	2016	Portable barrier free washroom provided
Arkona Seniors Centre north sidewalk too narrow and possible conflict with air conditioner	Improved accessibility for wheelchairs	2016	Worked planned for 2021
Arkona Seniors Centre north exit door and deadbolts to be changed.	Improve emergency egress	2016	Work planned for 2021

Table 2 – Additional Measures to Incorporate

Barrier	Objective	Year Identified	Status
Forest Trail	Improve accessibility for wheelchairs	2021	Forest Trail has been improved and chip dust has been added to create a better

Barrier	Objective	Year Identified	Status
			surface for mobility
Story Walk Trail	Improve accessibility for wheelchairs	2021	The Story walk trail at the Port Franks Community Centre will be resurfaced in June/July 2021 with chip dust to create a better surface for people with mobility issues
Port Franks Community Centre Exterior Doors	Barrier free issues	2021	Exterior doors at the Port Franks Community Centre are now Barrier free
Village Green	Add barrier free picnic tables	2021	Barrier free picnic table installed at the Village Green in Thedford
Port Franks Community Centre Trail Head	Add barrier free picnic tables	2021	2 Barrier free picnic tables to be installed at the Port Franks Community Centre Trail Head
Port Franks Community Centre access from parking lot to pavilion	Mobility issues	2021	Trail, or accessible path leading from the parking area to the Pavilion at the Port Franks Community Centre

In addition to updating the status of Schedule A, there are a few administrative revisions proposed to the Accessibility Plan

1. Since the time of plan development, the Municipality has experienced the unfortunate passing of Councillor Rick Goodhand, a long serving member of the LSAAC. Councillor Scott Ferguson has been appointed by Council as its new representative on the committee. The plan membership listing has been revised accordingly.
2. In order to more closely tie the accessibility Plan to the regulations under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 it is suggested that the following two paragraphs be inserted into the executive summary section of the document.

Section 4.(1) of Ontario Regulation 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standard states:

The Government of Ontario, Legislative Assembly, designated public sector organizations and large organizations shall,

- (a) Establish, implement, maintain and document a multi-year accessibility plan, which outlines the organizations strategy to prevent and remove barriers and meet it requirement under this Regulation;*

- (b) Post the accessibility plan on their website, if any, and provide the plan in an accessible format upon request; and
- (c) Review and update the accessibility plan at least once every five years.

The AODA, and the follow-up Integrated Accessibility Standard Regulation (IASR, 2011), has established mandatory accessibility standards for both public and private organizations including specific compliance timelines for each standard. The objective of the regulatory standards established under the AODA is to make Ontario fully accessible by 2025 in the areas of:

- Customer Service (O. Reg. 429/07)
- Transportation (O. Reg. 191/11)
- Information and Communications (O. Reg. 191/11)
- Employment (O. Reg. 191/11), and
- Built Environment (O. Reg. 413/12).

3. In order to provide more detail on process and timelines for review, it is suggested that the Review and Monitoring Process section of the plan be revised to state:

The Chief Administrative Officer will review progress on identified projects, and will remind staff about their roles in implementing the plan. As required for implementation, fiscal consideration for larger projects will be provided to Council through the annual budget process.

The Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee will annually review the Multi-year Accessibility Plan including status updates or modifications to the specific initiatives identified in Schedule A.

Following review of the advisory committee, the Accessibility Plan posted on the Lambton Shores website (or made available in any other accessible format) will be updated to reflect any status changes to Schedule A and will reflect the date of currency.

4. Communication of the Plan

Since the establishment of this plan, Lambton Shores has established the position of Communications Coordinator working through the Clerk's office. Accordingly, it is suggested that this section of the plan be modified to include a more specific reference. More specifically the paragraph can be modified to read:

This plan, including its updates can be viewed online at www.lambtonshores.ca/accessibiity/ or can be provided in print form upon request from any Municipal Office (Forest, Grand Bend, Northville).

To request this plan or its updates in an alternate format, please use the contact link on the webpage, or call 519-243-1400 and enter the number "4" when prompted for personal service.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

This report is provided for information and to meet the corporate obligation for preparation of an annual status report on initiatives contained within the multi-year plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

That the report be received by Council along with any updates to the multi-year plan being posted on the municipal website.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no fiscal impacts associated with receipt of this report.

CONSULTATION

Lambton Shores Accessibility Advisory Committee