



2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL

Committee Name: Accessibility Advisory Committee

Date Submitted: December 06, 2024

1. Outline of accomplishments/projects completed in 2024:

- Path at Arboretum Park paved (AAC Motion started in 2016)
- Facilities Accessibility Design Manual (FADM) converted into an accessible document that is compliant with the WCAG 2.0 standards so it can be posted on the city's website, subject to review by the Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator
- Walk & Roll event with DEI Office, National AccessAbility Week (June 2024)
- AAC presentation to Council, International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Accessibility Award 2024 presented to Stratford Festival (November 2024)

The AAC also recommended (beginning in 2007) that the entrance to the Stratford Police Services Station be made barrier-free. Work is ongoing with this project.

2. Summary of how the Advisory Committee's mandate in the Terms of Reference is reflected in the Committee's accomplishments/projects for 2024:

- The AAC continues to identify and communicate opportunities to remove barriers and improve accessibility in our community.
- The AAC understands that accessibility should be a top priority and continues to communicate this through awareness projects and the AAC's Site Plan Sub-Committee.

3. Summary of 2024 recommendations:

Recommendations Provided to Administration

- THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee requests a status update from staff on the Accessibility Tax Deferral Program.
 - The item has been deferred to a subsequent year pending the completion of the Official Plan.
- THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee supports spending up to a maximum of \$15,000.00 from the 2024 Infrastructure Services Department – Engineering Accessibility budget to drop the curbs down at three accessible parking spots identified on Ontario Street, Albert Street and George Street.
 - The recommendation was forwarded to the Infrastructure Department for completion.
- THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Community Services and the Board of Park Management a proper accessible curb cut be completed in the north end of the parking lot adjacent to the Upper Queens playground and an accessible pathway be installed from the curb cut to the playground and picnic area.
 - The recommendation was forwarded to the Parks Board and approved in theory. This area is in the planning and budgeting process to be revitalized in 2026, the recommended will be addressed as part of this process.
- THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends to Community Services and the Board of Park Management investigate adding additional accessible parking spots in both parking lots in Upper Queen Park.
 - The recommendation has been forwarded to the Parks Board for review and consideration. It has been noted by staff that the North and South lots in this location provide the required number of accessible parking spaces.
- THAT the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends the remaining funds in the Engineering Department's 2024 Accessibility Improvement Budget be allocated to completing the accessible parking spots on St. Andrew Street;

AND THAT any funds remaining after the St. Andrew Street accessible parking spots are completed be allocated to replacing priority curb drops identified by Engineering staff.

- The recommendation was forwarded to the Infrastructure Department for implementation based on the available budget
- THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends the bridge to Tom Patterson Island be replaced to with an accessible bridge that satisfies the city's FADM, section 4.5.2 Outdoor Recreation Facilities, not to exceed the maximum slope of 1:20.
 - The recommendation was forwarded to the Parks Board for review and consideration. The recommendation could be brought forwarded to Council with assistance from the Infrastructure Department once a review is completed by staff.

Recommendations provided to Sub-committee, Committee or Council

- THAT the Stratford Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends an accessible parking space and curb-cut be installed on the north side of Oakdale Avenue between O'Loane Avenue and Matilda Street adjacent to the baseball field.
Carried

4. Please summarize how your 2024 projects/plans have reflected the City's strategic priorities:

Continue to advance projects that ensure all citizens, regardless of barriers they may face, have full access to the Stratford community.

5. Comments regarding impact of COVID-19 on your Committee's operations in 2024:

N/A