



Report to Council

Department: Community Services

Division: Parks and Facilities

Date: March 17, 2025

Prepared by: Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities

Report Number: Parks and Facilities-2025-04

Subject: Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Council Update for 2024

Number of Pages: 5

Recommendation(s)

That Parks and Facilities-2025-04 entitled Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Council Update for 2024 prepared by Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities dated March 17, 2025, be received for information.

Purpose

As indicated in the Town of Essex Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2024 to 2029, on an annual basis, the Staff liaison for the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee will provide Council with an update on the status of accessibility initiatives identified in the Multi-Year Plan as well as report on the year's accomplishments of the Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee over and above those initiatives identified in the Plan.

Background and Discussion

2024 Completed Action Items from the Multi-Year Plan

- The Committee continuously monitors the action items with ongoing timeframes to ensure items are reviewed when identified.
- Ensure Town Hall adds accessible buttons to the lobby washrooms (outside of Council Chambers) by end of 2025 - with the assistance of a grant this work was completed a year ahead of schedule.
- Ensure Town Hall has accessible entrance signage by end of 2024 – signage was reviewed, updated and reassessed for the Town Hall construction phase. We will need to actively assess the signage during construction, until complete.
- Ensure low spot at the bottom of the ramp outside of Town hall is repaired to prevent water from freezing, by end of 2024 – This low spot has been removed due to the new Town Hall construction.
- Provide additional shaded areas at the McGregor Community Centre Park by end of 2026 – Due to Council initiatives this work was completed two years ahead of schedule.
- Ensure Gesto Office has transition to ramp adjusted as there is an uneven surface by end of 2024 – Debris was removed from this area to help level the surface to improve accessibility.
- Ensure accessible parking spaces and no parking area are defined outside of “LIFE” by end of 2024 – This work was completed.
- Add accessible buttons for washrooms at Essex Centre Sports Complex in the Shaheen Room by end of 2024 – these buttons were installed on both washrooms.

- Ensure battery for chair lift is repaired, or alternate solution is completed by end of 2024 – This repair was investigated with the manufacturer and found the system was out of date and not repairable. A new replacement was budgeted for in 2025 and will be installed before the end of this year.
- Establish a retrofit design document that will assist businesses to make their facilities more accessible by end of 2024 - This was passed and approved in our May meeting.
- Install accessible ramp for washrooms at Lions Hall by end of 2024 – This ramp was installed in 2024.

2024 Accomplishments above the Plan

- The Town of Essex and the Committee hosted the County of Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee's Fest-for-All Event in Colchester Park. This was an outdoor event highlighting the accessible amenities at the Colchester Park and Beach location and showcasing all the great services and amenities in the County of Essex geared toward accessibility, adaptability and inclusivity.
- The Town replaced approximately 2,250 linear meters of sidewalk, increasing the width of each sidewalk to today's codes, and installed 33 tactile plates.
- Navigation assistance tool implementation at Colchester Harbour and Park – the Committee advocated for an app to be utilized to assist individuals with vision impairments navigate the park and its features.

Reviews for proposals, designs, site plans and zoning requests:

- Talbot Street, Essex Pre Consultation
- King Street, Harrow - Proposed Commercial Development
- Talbot Street, Municipal office expansion plan
- Hunter Park Improvements Plan
- Harrow Parking Lot Design

- 152 County Rd 50 E, Col S
- 206 Chester Road, Col S
- 245 Talbot Street N - Essex

Financial Impact

None

Consultations

The Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee

Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer

Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☒ Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- ☐ Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- ☒ Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- ☒ Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- ☐ Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee's Council Update for 2024.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 10, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services was completed by workflow administrator Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services

Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services - Mar 10, 2025 - 11:02 AM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sweet", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Doug Sweet, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 10, 2025 - 11:08 AM