



Report to Council

Department: Community Services
Division: Parks and Facilities
Date: March 16, 2026
Prepared by: Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities
Report Number: Parks and Facilities-2026-02
Subject: Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Council Update for 2025
Number of Pages: 4

Recommendation(s)

That Parks and Facilities-2026-02 entitled Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee Council Update for 2025 prepared by Rodney Klie, Manager, Parks and Facilities dated March 16, 2026, 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

2025 Completed Action Items from the Multi-Year Plan

The Committee continuously monitors the action items contained in the plan with ongoing timeframes to ensure items are reviewed when identified.

- Address barriers to employment with the Town of Essex for people with disabilities and address accommodation requirements of existing employees with disabilities – In 2025, the Town expanded its hiring practices to include a partnership with Community Living and successfully hired three staff members in various positions. Council has approved the continuation and further development of this inclusive hiring initiative into 2026.
- Ensure battery for chair lift at the Essex Recreation Complex is repaired, or alternate solution is completed by end of 2024 – A grant was successfully applied for, and new chair lifts were installed for each swimming pool in 2025.



- Attend an information sharing forum hosted by the County of Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee to exchange knowledge and best practices on an annual basis – The Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee attend the Fest for All Event hosted in Amherstburg by the County in 2025.

2025 Accomplishments above the Plan

- The Committee reviewed and voted on the new playground at Co-An Park. This community playground was designed to increase accessible play options within the park and exceeds current accessible playground standards, supporting more inclusive play opportunities for our community.



- The Committee requested that the Town add an accessible access route at the Colchester Beach from the road edge to the Mobi-Mat, which was installed in 2025.
- The Town replaced 1,225 linear metres of sidewalk, increasing the width of each sidewalk to meet current code requirements and installing 19 tactile plates.
- As part of the County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) and in partnership with the County of Essex, the Town of Essex completed the paved shoulder bike lanes along County Road 50 from County Road 41 to Dunn Road in 2025. The project also included the installation of all necessary signage and several benches for rest stops.
- The Town installed a Level B Lighted Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) at Essex High School across Talbot Street North.



- The Committee also brought forward a request to add more pedestrian crossings to access the trail along South Talbot Road. In response, the Town installed a Level D Pedestrian Crossover (PXO) at South Talbot Road and Laird Avenue to provide access to the walking trail.



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

- 235 Victoria Avenue (Viscount Estates)
- Co-An Playground Design
- Barrier Free Apartments 39 King St. E., Harrow
- 80-86 County Rd. 50 W. with regulations 11
- Draft Plan Subdivision-Gianni Estates 21
- 320 South Talbot Road-Essex Flex 27

- 1302 South Malden Road 58
- 71 and 73 Talbot Street North

Financial Impact

None

Consultations

The Essex Accessibility Advisory Committee

Jake Morassut, Deputy CAO, Director, Community Services

David McBeth, Manager, Capital Works and Asset Management

Kate Giurissevich, 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 Council Update for 2025 - Parks and Facilities-2026-02.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 9, 2026

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



Jake Morassut, Director, Community Services - Mar 9, 2026 - 9:28 AM



Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Mar 9, 2026 - 9:48 AM