

Report to Council

Report Title:	Accessibility Advisory Committee Update		
Prepared By:	Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk and Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)		
Department:	Clerk's		
Date:	April 8, 2025		
Report Number:	CLK2025-06	File Number:	C11CL
Attachments:	Walkerton Community Centre Accessibility Recommendations Catalogue		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CLK2025-06 – Accessibility Advisory Committee Update, prepared by Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk and Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk) and in doing so provides the following feedback to staff regarding the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan _____

Report:

Background:

The Accessibility Advisory Committee completed several projects in 2024, including the addition of new parking spaces for persons with disabilities at the Market Garden in Walkerton, and the relocation of a parking space in front of the Post Office/Municipal Office in Walkerton.

The Committee distributed thank you cards to downtown Walkerton businesses for their cooperation in moving sidewalk signs along Durham Street to improve accessibility of the sidewalk.

Construction of phase two of the Walkerton and District Optimist Park accessible playground was completed in Fall 2024. The new features include increased area of play safe playground rubber safety surfacing, additional paved pathways, a pavilion, and new equipment; the We-go- Swing, Learning and Sensory Wall and Single Post Swings. The Walkerton Optimist Park has also been featured on the [Accessible Playgrounds Ontario](#) directory. Photos of the new park are available below:

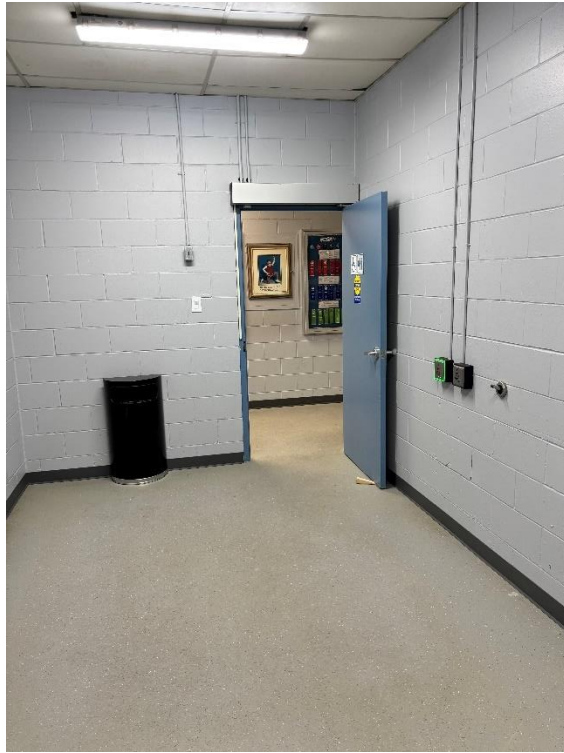


The Committee organized an Accessibility Education Workshop with Julie Sawchuk at the Best Western Plus Hotel and Conference Centre in Walkerton on September 11, 2024 with members of the public, business owners, and service clubs.

The Committee also purchased mobi-mats to improve outdoor mobility, which were used at the Hometown Christmas Market.

The Committee conducted an accessibility audit of the Walkerton Community Centre with Julie Sawchuk, who recommended some improvements to the community centre. The Community Services Department developed a catalogue of accessibility issues and priorities based on Julie Sawchuk's recommendations.

The recommendations catalogue is attached to this report, showing the progress that has been made, including improvements to signage, lighting, new ramp and viewing platform, and a fully accessible washroom. Photos of the new accessible washroom are available below:



Staff express our thanks to the Committee in their efforts to make Brockton an accessible, welcoming community.

Analysis:

2025 Budget/Projects

Brockton Council approved a budget of \$2,500 for the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Committee is considering organizing a MapMission day to provide information on accessible places in Brockton, to be featured on the [AccessNow website](#) and app. The AccessNow website displays places and landmarks in communities, ranking their level of accessibility. This is a resourceful tool for individuals with mobility issues to gain information while planning their route in a particular community.

The AccessNow website has been advertised in the Brockton Buzz Newsletter, and the Committee will continue to review this project in more detail, including contacting businesses in the community and encouraging individuals to join the Committee on a MapMission day to review the places in Brockton that could be added to the map.

The 2025 Municipal Budget also included some key capital projects, including installing new sidewalks on Old Durham Road and new sidewalks and streetlights along Eastridge Road, municipal contributions to Bruce County's redesign of the intersection at Durham and McNab Streets, and epoxy floor improvements at Centennial Pool.

New Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

The Municipality's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (2021-2025) expires this year. The Accessibility Advisory Committee have identified six broad categories or initiatives to include in the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

1. **Education**

The Committee discussed encouraging education and collaboration through improved funding and attention in the Community Improvement Plan, and focusing on training and education for downtown businesses.

2. **Collaboration**

The Committee emphasized increased collaboration with service clubs and volunteer groups, pointing to the success of the collaboration with the Optimist Club in developing the accessible playground at the Walkerton Community Centre.

3. **Accessibility Ambassador Program**

The Committee brainstormed a possible Accessibility Ambassador Program and how the Program could work to create greater accessibility awareness throughout the community.

4. **Accessibility Event**

The Committee expressed support for organizing some kind of accessibility event annually.

5. **Access Now**

The Committee referred to the Access Now website and supported including more information about Brockton sites. The greater visibility may help motivate Committee members to make accessibility improvement.

6. Stop Gap

It was noted that the adoption and promotion of the Stop Gap program would also help to improve accessibility throughout the downtown.

Staff will be issuing a survey to the public to gather their suggestions on what else should be included within the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Staff are seeking Council’s input on any inclusions for the new Accessibility Plan.

Council will receive an update later this year on the feedback received, and the final draft of the new Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance Yes

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The \$2,500 budget will assist the Committee in planning events and furthering their educational awareness to the community.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sarah Johnson, Deputy Clerk



Fiona Hamilton, Director of Legislative and Legal Services (Clerk)

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer