



Township of Norwich

# Annual Status Report Of the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2024

This document is a summary of the Township of Norwich accomplishments towards compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The purpose of the AODA is to develop, implement and enforce accessibility standards in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians.

Ontario Regulation 191/11 entitled *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* states:

4. (3) The government of Ontario, Legislative Assembly and designated public sector organizations shall;
- (a) Prepare an annual status report on the progress of measures taken to implement the strategy reference in clause (1) (a) (multi-year accessibility plan) including steps taken to comply with this Regulation; and
  - (b) Post the status report on their website, if any, and provide the report in an accessible format upon request, O. Reg. 191/11, s.4(3) O. Reg. 413/12 s. 3 (1)

## Planned Action Items and Status:

### Requests for additional streetlights to be reviewed

- All requests are reviewed for feasibility and necessity as received.

### Sidewalk Installation – Jerdon Street, Norwich

- Completed in 2023

### **Sidewalk Replacement on Main Street North in Burgessville**

- To be completed in 2026 per future capital budget

### **Sidewalk Replacement on Church Street in Burgessville**

- Joint project with Oxford County with engineering scheduled for 2025 and construction in 2026

### **Sidewalk replacement on Stover Street from Elgin Street to North Court (possibly to Brock Street, budget dependent)**

- Sections completed in 2022/2023

### **Springford Park – Picnic Shelter**

- Completed in 2024, including installation of 1 accessible picnic table.

### **Springford Park – Paved Pathways**

- Future project to be schedule as per the 2025 Township of Norwich Recreation Master Plan.

### **Burgessville Park – Paved Pathways**

- Projected completed in 2024.

### **Otterville Park - Picnic Shelter**

- Project was scheduled for 2024 but deferred pending Otterville Park bridge condition assessment. Project to be rescheduled as per the 2025 Township of Norwich Recreation Master Plan.

### **Otterville Park – new play structure**

- Future project to be scheduled as per the 2025 Township of Norwich Recreation Master Plan and the Township of Norwich Asset Management Plan.

### **Otterville Park – walking/fitness trail**

- Future project to be scheduled as per the 2025 Township of Norwich Recreation Master Plan.

### **Meadows Park – accessible pathways around park perimeter and links to various amenities & accessible Fitness/play structure**

- Completed in 2023.
- Fitness equipment scheduled for Fall 2024 installation and has been reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **Various Parks - Accessible Picnic Tables**

- Ongoing
- Current accessible picnic table locations (seasonal May-October):
  - Curries, 1
  - Ducky Dennis Park (Burgessville), 1 picnic table/shade structure (new 2024)
  - Harold Bishop Park (Norwich), 1
  - Meadows Park (Norwich), 1 picnic tables/shade structure
  - Dillon Park (Norwich), 1
  - Otterville Park, 1
  - Springford Park, 1

### **Ongoing Training of New Staff**

- Ongoing, implemented as regular part of onboarding processes per AODA

### **Norwich Township Host Joint Oxford County AAC Meeting 2023**

- Meeting was hosted by Township on November 22, 2023
- Topics covered included:
  - Accessible playground features – Mike Kitchen of ABC Recreation, Patrick Hovorka, Director of Community Development Services and James Schaafsma, Property and Facilities Manager
  - Accessibility Audits for Town Facilities – Paula Toft of the Town of Ingersoll

- Site Plan Reviews – Susan Cronin, Oonagh Vaucrosson, and Lorie Falconer of Huron County

### **Ongoing Training of new Committee/Board Members**

- Ongoing, implemented as regular part of onboarding processes per AODA

### **Implementation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Training**

- Ongoing, implemented as regular part of onboarding processes

### **Other Projects of Note (Completed and Planned)**

- Ramp and accessible parking area at the Operations Centre completed in 2024
- Norwich uptown sidewalk between Washington and Stover is planned to be redesigned and rebuilt in 2025-2026
- Pad installed for an accessible “sitting” area corner of Washington and Main, Norwich
- Woodlawn accessible ramp project
- Crosswalk installed by County at Main and John Street reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Staff and Accessibility Advisory Committee Members attended the 2024 Joint Oxford County AAC Meeting, including a presentation and site audit walkthrough by accessibility expert and Chair of the Ontario Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee, Julie Sawchuk

### **2023 and 2024 By-Elections**

- Accessibility plans developed and implemented as reviewed and accepted by the Accessibility Advisory Committee for by-elections held in September 2023 and May 2024