



TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY

ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

2018 - 2022

CONTENTS

2018-2022 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
INTRODUCTION.....	3
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION	3
BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY.....	4
JOINT EFFORT WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES.....	4
GRAND RIVER ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GRAAC)	4
PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE WELLESLEY PLAN	4
STAFF CONTACTS.....	4
REPORT ON 2018 & 2022 ACTIVITIES	5
1. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION BARRIERS	5
2. TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS	5
3. POLICY/PRACTICE BARRIERS.....	5
4. ATTITUDINAL BARRIERS	5
5. PHYSICAL/ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS	5
ONGOING INITIATIVES FOR THE LIFE OF THE PLAN	7
INITIATIVES PROPOSED FOR 2018	8
INITIATIVES PROPOSED FOR 2019 & BEYOND	9
SCHEDULE “A”	10

2018-2022 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report was prepared to meet the obligations of Provincial accessibility legislation. It is the 2018-2022 Accessibility Plan of the Township of Wellesley. Throughout the document, it will be referred to as the “Wellesley Plan”.

INTRODUCTION

The Wellesley Plan describes accessibility initiatives that were undertaken in 2013-2017 and initiatives that are proposed for 2018-2022. The goal of the Wellesley Plan is to identify by-laws, policies, practices and services that were or will be reviewed for compliance with Provincial legislation.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 32

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act is commonly known as the “ODA”. This Act was passed into law by the Ontario Legislature on December 4, 2001. The goal of the Act is “to improve opportunities for persons with disabilities and to provide for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to their full participation in the life of the Province”. The ODA applies to all municipalities, hospitals, district school boards, colleges, universities, public transportation organizations, the Ontario Government, ministries and agencies.

The ODA requires municipalities to prepare annual accessibility plans and to get advice from an accessibility advisory committee on the contents of the plan. The ODA will eventually be repealed when all accessibility standards of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act are in place.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 11

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act is known as the “AODA”. It received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature in June 2005. The AODA focuses on improving accessibility in areas such as buildings and spaces, employment, customer service, communications and transportation in the private, government and broader public sector.

The goal of the AODA is:

- To achieve an accessible Ontario on or before January 1, 2025;
- To establish and implement mandatory and enforceable accessibility standards to be achieved within five years or less; and
- To maintain municipal accessibility advisory committees.

BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WELLESLEY

The Township of Wellesley consists of rural areas plus a variety of small settlement areas including Wellesley, St. Clements, Heidelberg, Bamberg, Linwood, Hawkesville, Crosshill, Wallenstein, Dorking, Kingwood and Paradise Lake. The municipal offices are located in Crosshill. The population of the Township of Wellesley is approximately 11,200. The Council of the Township of Wellesley is governed by a Mayor and 4 Ward Councillors.

JOINT EFFORT WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

Since 2003, the Township of Wellesley had prepared a joint accessibility plan with the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, and the Townships of North Dumfries, Woolwich and Wilmot. Starting with the 2009-2010 Plan, the Township of Wellesley has been preparing an independent accessibility plan but continues to work co-operatively on accessibility initiatives with the other municipalities. This provides more flexibility in the timing of the development of the Wellesley Plan and its review by GRAAC.

GRAND RIVER ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GRAAC)

The Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) is an advisory committee that helps identify, prevent and remove barriers by serving the Councils of the Cities of Kitchener and Waterloo and the Townships of North Dumfries, Woolwich, Wilmot and Wellesley. Staff representatives of each municipality participate in a joint recruitment process annually to fill GRAAC vacancies and each Council passes a resolution to appoint new members. GRAAC is made up of between 11 and 15 volunteers and advises the councils on accessibility issues including their annual accessibility plans.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE WELLESLEY PLAN

Legislation requires that accessibility plans be made available to the public. The 2018-2022 Accessibility Plan will be made available on the Township's website at www.wellesley.ca. It will also be provided to anyone upon request and copies will be set out at the Administration Office reception desk.

STAFF CONTACTS

The following Township of Wellesley staff members co-ordinate and oversee the Township's accessibility efforts and may be contacted for additional information relating to the Wellesley Plan, the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee and accessibility in general.

Accessibility Coordinator:

Amy Black,
Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk
(519) 699-3968
ablack@wellesley.ca

REPORT ON 2018 & 2022 ACTIVITIES

1. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION BARRIERS

ASL: American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters are available upon request

Alternate Formats: Alternate Format Policy Schedule "A" attached

TTY: The TTY is located at the municipal office.

2. TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS

Website Accessibility:

The Township's website address is www.wellesley.ca. Council and Clerk Services department and Information Technology staff are responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the website and for ensuring that the website is maintained in accordance with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standards.

3. POLICY/PRACTICE BARRIERS

[Accessibility standards for customer service policies, procedures and practices](http://www.wellesley.ca/en/township-services/accessibility.aspx) were adopted in 2009 and is available on the Township's website. (<http://www.wellesley.ca/en/township-services/accessibility.aspx>)

4. ATTITUDINAL BARRIERS

Every person who deals with members of the public has received accessibility training. This includes every employee, volunteer or other agent (ie. contractors). All new employees will receive training during orientation.

5. PHYSICAL/ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS

INITIATIVES COMPLETED IN 2013 & 2017

- Replaced 1870m (6135') of sidewalk at 1.5M (5') wide
 - Herrgott Road in St. Clements 440 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Wilker Way in Linwood 180 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Pine Street in Linwood 30 metres
 - Henry Street in Wellesley 200 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Henry Street in Wellesley at Library 110 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Molesworth Street in Wellesley 90 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Queens Bush Road in Wellesley 50 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Nafziger Road in Wellesley 280 metres

- Lobsinger Line in St. Clements 250 metres with detectable warning plates
- Alfred Street in Linwood 240 metres with detectable warning plates
- Installation of 250m (820') of new sidewalk
 - Parkview Drive in Wellesley 250 metres 1.5 wide with detectable warning plates
- Greenwood Hill Road in Wellesley 400 metres 2 metres wide recreation trail with detectable warning plates and stop signs.
- Two new barrier free parking spaces added on Nafziger Road in Wellesley in the downtown core.
- Retrofit of 521 street lights from high pressure sodium to LED throughout the township.
- Replaced doors, washrooms at the Hawkesville Community Centre
- Accessible playground built in Wellesley.
- Accessible playground equipment was added to playgrounds in St. Clements and Linwood.
- Replaced pavement walkway to the Wellesley Library from parking lot.
- Replaced paving stones at the Linwood Cenotaph.
- Renovations of the outdoor washrooms in St. Clements.
- Constructed a new accessible multi-use sports pad in St. Clements.
- Trails and Active Transportation Advisory Committee was established.

ONGOING INITIATIVES FOR THE LIFE OF THE PLAN

- Continue to make a financial contribution to the operation of the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) of up to \$500.00 per year based on the committee's expenses.
- Continue to have a staff member attend monthly GRAAC and Co-chair meetings only when Wellesley has an issue on the agenda or when staff from other municipalities or GRAAC members request Wellesley's assistance.
- Continue to review the state of sidewalks throughout the Township.
- Continue to enforce the sidewalk snow clearing by-law. Residents must clear sidewalks of ice and snow within 24 hours after a snow fall or rain.
- Continue to pursue accessibility funding.

INITIATIVES PROPOSED FOR 2018

- Replace 260m (853') sidewalks at 1.5m (5') wide
 - Catherine Street in Wellesley 150 metres with detectable warning plates
 - Lobsinger Line in St. Clements 90 metres
 - Queens Bush Road in Wellesley 20 metres
- New 920m (3018') sidewalks at 1.5m (5') wide
 - Parkview Drive in Wellesley 680 metres with detectable warning plates
 - David Street in Wellesley 240 metres with detectable warning plates
- Gerber Road in Wellesley 295m (968') of 2m (6.5') wide recreation trail with detectable warning plates.

INITIATIVES PROPOSED FOR 2019 & BEYOND

- Continue to review the state of sidewalks throughout the Township and replace with 1.5 metres wide with detectable warning plates where needed.
- Explore locations for pedestrian crossings with Regional staff.
- Incorporate new sidewalks when reconstructing streets.
- Review the current snow removal bylaw and look at options and cost to perform snow and ice removal on Township owned sidewalks.
- Improve lighting in dark areas with more LED street lighting.
- Replace existing playground equipment with inclusive equipment.
- Initiate plans for new recreation development.
- Install new trails and update existing trails to comply with AODA requirements.

SCHEDULE “A”

ALTERNATE FORMATS POLICY

The Township of Wellesley will respond to requests for documents in alternate format or plain text on a case-by-case basis.

The Township of Wellesley Council and Clerks Department will manage and guide all requests for documents in plain language or other format.

The fee to obtain a document in plain language or alternate format shall be the same as the fee the resident would pay for the unaltered document.

The Township will use a cost effective approach in the generation of documents in alternate format.

The Township will produce information in plain language upon request from a person who has a disability or low literacy level.

All requests for information in alternate formats or plain text received by the Township shall be treated in a confidential manner.