



Township of Norwich

Annual Status Report

Of the Multi-Year

Accessibility Plan

2025

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

- Proposed project included a path connecting the picnic shelter to the playground equipment. Project was included in previous years capital forecasts and has now been removed pending future parks planning processes.

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 is scheduled for 2028 in the current capital forecast and will be included in the goals for the next Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Otterville Park – new play structure

- Project initially scheduled for a New Otterville Park based on recommendations from the 2017 Parks Master Plan. Development of a new park is not currently being considered.
- A new play structure for Otterville Park is included in the current capital forecast and is scheduled for 2031 and will therefore be reflected in the goals for the next Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.

Otterville Park – walking/fitness trail

- Proposed project included a path around the perimeter of the park. Project was included in previous years capital forecasts and has now been removed pending future parks planning processes.

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

- Completed in 2023.
- Fitness equipment reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Committee and installation completed Fall 2024.

Various Parks - Accessible Picnic Tables

- Ongoing
- Current accessible picnic table locations (seasonal May-October, unless permanent):
 - Curries, 1 accessible picnic table
 - Ducky Dennis Park (Burgessville), 1 permanent picnic table/shade structure (new 2024), 1 accessible picnic table
 - Harold Bishop Park (Norwich), 1 accessible picnic table
 - Meadows Park (Norwich), 1 permanent picnic tables/shade structure
 - Dillon Park (Norwich), 1 accessible picnic table
 - Otterville Park, 2 accessible picnic tables
 - Springford Park, 1 accessible picnic table

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)

- Additional/new sidewalk construction on Brock Street to Conservation area planned for 2026.
- Construct connecting sidewalks from Deer Crescent to Church Street Burgessville planned for 2026.
- Focus on connectivity of sidewalks in Norwich 2026-2030.
- Redesign/Reconstruct two level sidewalk on Main Street in Norwich planned for 2027.
- Staff participating in “Toilet Tuesday” webinar series by accessibility consultant Julie Sawchuk, includes 6 monthly webinars from September 2025 to March 2026 covering topics relating to accessible washroom design.
- Recently approved GUMP software training subscription provides staff access to various modules regarding formatting in Word documents, PDF creation and form fillable PDFs. These skills directly relate to the creation of accessible documents.
- Ongoing work to improve accessibility and usability of Township forms, including electronic options planned for 2026.
- Lighting improvements in Springford Hall and the Norwich Community Centre completed in 2025.