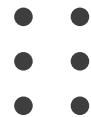


Annual Accessibility STATUS REPORT 2021 / 2022

A SUMMARY OF NORFOLK COUNTY'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS
INCLUSION IN 2021/2022.

access
NORFOLK



Accessible formats and communication supports available upon request.

Norfolk
COUNTY

Objectives and Purpose

This Accessibility Status Report is the annual update on the progress of measures taken to improve accessibility and implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) Ontario Regulation 191/11. This Status Report includes the accessibility initiatives that were completed in both 2021 & 2022 to implement the strategies outlined in Norfolk County's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan. The purpose of this Status Report is to make the public aware of Norfolk County's progress with regards to the 2018-2022 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and to prevent and remove barriers and meet requirements under the AODA. County Staff are working on the next version of the Norfolk County Multi Year Accessibility Plan (2023-2028), and look forward to bringing the Plan forward for Council approval in May of 2023.

Norfolk County's Commitment Statement

Norfolk County's statement of commitment establishes the vision and goals for the County to meet the above noted legislated accessibility requirements. The County's statement of commitment is publicly available on the County website as well as posted in administration buildings and Norfolk County Public Library branches.

The Corporation of Norfolk County is committed to eliminating barriers and improving accessibility for persons with disabilities in a manner that respects dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity.

Norfolk County recognizes the diverse needs of all our residents and customers and will respond by striving to provide services and facilities that are accessible to all. Norfolk County is committed to meeting the needs of people with disabilities in a timely manner, and will do so by preventing and removing barriers to accessibility and meeting accessibility requirements under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The County will promote accessibility by ensuring that compliance is met for all regulations made under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Timelines for compliance vary. In order to ensure that timelines are met, the County will establish, implement and maintain a multi-year accessibility plan. The plan will outline the County's strategy to prevent and remove barriers to people with disabilities.

Continuous Achievements in Accessibility

- The County focuses on removing barriers which may exist in our buildings and facilities, while ensuring that new buildings, leases and renovations do not create any new barriers.
- Norfolk County continues to adhere by the Corporate Accessibility Policy – outlining what the County will do to comply with all applicable legislation while outlining what our customers and employees can expect while receiving and providing barrier-free services.
- The Norfolk County Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) continues to meet its requirements under the AODA with regularly scheduled meetings. The committee reviews accessibility initiatives, site plans, Barrier Free Access capital budget projects and provide consultation on legislated areas under the AODA.
- The County continues to comply with the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation including continuing to train staff, volunteers and third parties who interact on behalf of the County on an ongoing basis.
- County staff continue to identify funding opportunities for enhancements to County facilities and programming under the Enabling Accessibility Fund, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Inclusive Community Grant program as well as the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Program. Multiple applications are filed on an annual basis as to ensure no funding opportunities are missed.
- All library branches continue to provide accessible materials and communication supports upon request. In addition the library has several accessible materials and resources available including but not limited to: Job Access with Speech (JAWS), Digital Accessible Information System (DAISY) readers, audio books, large print books, library loan access and large print keyboards.
- Continually notifying the public of accommodations for applicants with disabilities in its recruitment process.
- Norfolk County Notifies the public of availability of accessible formats and communication supports.
- Continue to review customer feedback and take appropriate action as it relates to barrier-free services.

Highlights and Successes of 2021 & 2022

- Enabling Accessibility Fund program funding secured for Norfolk County Administration Building second floor accessible washroom upgrades to renovate the existing washrooms to be entirely barrier-free and in compliance with the Norfolk County Accessibility Design Guidelines
- Investing In Canada Infrastructure Program funding secured to provide accessible shelving at the Simcoe Library Branch with installation slated for 2023
- Inclusive Community Grant Application submitted for Norfolk County Age Friendly Community Action Plan to enhance levels of inclusion in the community, aligning with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility Advancing Accessibility in Ontario Framework
- Significant work went into the 2022 Municipal Election to ensure the voting process was accessible for all residents in both the Municipal and School Board Election as outlined in the Norfolk County Accessibility Plan – 2022 Municipal Election:
 - o Detailed accessibility facility audit at various voting locations across the County, identifying potential barriers and identifying optimal locations based on accessibility
 - o Election information provided in alternative formats and through multiple channels
 - o Providing candidates with information on how to make their campaigns more accessible
 - o Purchased a mobile accessible ramp to gain access to voting locations that posed potential barriers to some residents
 - o Presence of two fully accessible tabulator-assisted voting systems that were distributed to various communities during advanced polling
- Procured a website scanning tool (Monsido) to assist in identifying gaps as it relates to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) while also providing enhanced website analytics
- Following COVID-19 Pandemic, Norfolk County Accessibility Advisory Committee re-engaged and reviewed/ provided consultation on the following projects in 2022
 - o Waterford Heritage Trail paving project
 - o Alice Street, Waterford on-street accessible parking project
 - o Accessible Street Signage Policy

- Barrier-free path of travel installation at the Simcoe Kinsmen Park providing access from Talbot Street North while also significantly improving the overall level of barrier-free access to the park
- Langton Community Centre washrooms upgrade project – included a full upgrade to existing washroom to be a fully accessible universal washroom while also providing barrier-free access to men’s and women’s washrooms
- Various accessible parking improvements across the County including both on and off-street parking locations
- Continued success with the Port Dover beach mat program – providing an accessible beach experience for residents and tourists using mobility devices
- Various streetscape reconstruction projects prioritizing exterior paths of travel (curb ramps and accessible pedestrian control signal upgrades) at various locations across the County. Projects included:
 - o South Drive, Simcoe (curb ramp upgrades)
 - o Main Street, Port Dover pedestrian cross over (curb ramp and accessible pedestrian control signal)
 - o Urban Asphalt Rehabilitation, Port Dover (curb ramp)
 - o St. Andrew Street, Port Dover (sidewalk and curb ramp)
 - o Parker Drive, Simcoe (sidewalk and curb ramp)

Availability of the Plan and Status Report

The 2023-2028 Multi Year Accessibility Plan will be available through the County's Accessibility webpage at: <https://www.norfolkcounty.ca/government/accessibility/> the previous Multi Year Accessibility Plan along with previous Status Reports are also available on the Accessibility page.

Contact Information

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Accessible formats and/or communication supports available upon request