

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL**

**OBJECTIVE**

To provide Council with information regarding the 2020 Outdoor Spaces Accessibility Audit.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the report of the Community Development Officer dated June 7, 2021 be received;

**AND THAT** Council review and accept the Accessibility Audit Outdoor Spaces performed June 22 to 24 2020, as amended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Respectfully Submitted



Amanda Roy  
Community Development Officer

Reviewed by



Ashten Vlahovich  
Economic Development Coordinator

Approved by



Natalie Bray  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

## BACKGROUND

This is the second portion of the Accessibility Audit performed by Wheelchair Friendly Solutions Inc./ Watts Accessibility Consulting. The first took place in December 2019 and it was just Municipal Facilities, the second portion of the audit focuses on outdoor Municipal spaces.

During outdoor spaces audit, because of COVID 19, some outdoor locations were closed or not used to full capacity.

Certain aspects of outdoor spaces were not available, such as beach mats and water wheelchairs.

Audit was done with this in mind and to best of consultant's ability with help from City staff.

After reviewing the report, the Accessibility Advisory Committee wanted to see the outdoor spaces at the Ski Hill and Golf Course included in the audit. These two locations were audited by the Outdoor Audit Working Group early June 2021 and are included as amendments to the audit report.

## ANALYSIS

The main concerns observed and identified in the Audit:

1. The required compliance for accessibility within the Design of Public Outdoor Spaces in accordance with legislated codes and laws. To ensure the mandated compliance both city employees and contracted services hired by The City of Elliot lake must abide by all accessibility laws and codes. It is equally the City of Elliot Lake's and the contractor's accountability for accessibility, however The City of Elliot Lake is ultimately responsible.
2. Systemic physical barriers must be addressed such as washrooms, trails, downtown access, public transportation, pick up/drop off areas. Currently compliance is lacking with standard and laws, training and education will address these omissions.
3. Prioritizing must be made in order of importance to appropriately develop a budget, plan and timeline for completion.
4. A guide including checklist for outdoor events should be developed and instituted as well as an agreement signed prior to any permits, permission or licensing granted. A rental/damage charge for the use of accessibility equipment and MobiMats would assist Elliot Lake in offsetting costs for these products.



5. The City of Elliot has beautiful and accessible outdoor areas including: scenic lookouts, historic sites, beaches, boardwalk/fishing pier and trails. It was observed at each audited location that maintenance and upkeep is lacking. This is not related to general maintenance but instead is related to seasonal maintenance (beginning of the season). Note: This portion of the audit was done during Covid19 city shut down and we believe this played a major roll in these observations.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

A budget was included in 2020 for compliancy, including the municipal facilities audit and multi-year accessibility plan. It is recommended that the outcomes of the outdoor spaces audit be considered during 2022 budget process for implementation.

## LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through;

- Economic Development and Diversification, Stabilization and Investment Readiness
  - Capitalize on opportunities for diversification and community Growth
  - Continue to foster retirement opportunities
- Health and Community Wellness
  - Develop Aging in Place Strategy
  - Provide activities and promote healthy lifestyles through recreation for all age groups

## SUMMARY

The City of Elliot Lake has shown improvement in accessibility from the first Audit in December 2019 to the second one in June 2020 and through to today.

The City of Elliot lake and its Age Friendly vision for the future must include accessibility to reach its fullest potential. Accessibility, especially for a community like Elliot Lake will ensure that the City welcomes everyone and is inclusive.

