Accessibility Consultation on the Design of Public Spaces – Frequently Asked Questions

What does AODA stand for?
The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is a provincial regulation that was enacted in 2005 with the goal of identifying, removing, and preventing barriers for people with disabilities in key areas of daily living. It also aims at making Ontario fully accessible by 2025. Under AODA, there are 5 Integrated Accessibility Standards:

- Customer Service
- Information and Communications
- Transportation
- Employment
- Design of Public Spaces (Built Environment)

Which standard applies to parks and outdoor spaces?
That would be the Design of Public Spaces (Built Environment) Standard.

Does this apply also to buildings?
Building accessibility is regulated under the Ontario Building Code.

What is the goal of the Design of Public Spaces Standard?
To make sure that new or redeveloped public spaces such as parks, sidewalks and walkways, parking lots, outdoor eating areas, playgrounds, etc. serve the needs of all users. This includes children, seniors, and parents with strollers, as well as people with a wide variety of disabilities and those using various mobility assistance devices.

Why are you doing a public consultation?
It is a legislative requirement that organizations must consult on specific accessibility aspects regarding the design of outdoor public spaces. People with disabilities can provide valuable input to designers and decision-makers regarding their diverse needs, identify barriers in design and provide insight on how to remove barriers to accessibility.

Who are you consulting with?
As stated in the legislation, we are consulting with our local Accessibility Advisory Committee (ACCAC), the public and people with disabilities.

**At what point in the project do you hold consultations?**

Depending on the project, we would consult as early as possible in the planning process or once the design phase is complete, prior to the construction of the project.

**How do I find out more about your accessibility consultations in Parks?**

You can visit the [2016 Parks Construction and Planning Projects](#) page of the City of London website for a list of current projects from the Environmental and Parks Planning section. We also send consultation letters to residents living within 200 meters of a planned project and place a notification sign on site.

**What accessibility aspects of the projects do you consult on?**

We accept all your feedback and comments regarding how to enhance the accessibility of a project, however under the legislation we must consult on the following new or redeveloped features:

- Recreational trails;
- Outdoor play spaces;
- Exterior path of travel – rest areas;
- On-street parking.

**What is a recreational trail?**

A recreational trail is a public trail intended to allow pedestrians to participate in recreation and leisure activities, such as walking through parks, using playgrounds, or enjoying nature. In London, this type of trail is more often referred to as a pathway.

**What accessibility aspects of a recreational trail are you consulting on?**

Depending on the project, we consult on some or all of the following:

- Slope of trail,
- Need for and location of ramps,
- Need for and location and design of Rest Areas, Passing Areas, Viewing Areas,
- Amenities on the trail, and
What is an outdoor play space?

An outdoor play space is an area that includes play equipment, such as play structures and swings, or features such as logs, rocks, sand or water, where the equipment or features are designed and placed to provide play opportunities and experiences for children and caregivers. It can also be referred to as a play area or a playground.

What accessibility aspects of an outdoor play space are you consulting on?

We are seeking input on how make play spaces inclusive and fun for all children by obtaining the feedback regarding the needs of children and caregivers with various disabilities.

What is an exterior path of travel?

An exterior path of travel is a sidewalk or walkway intended to provide a functional route from Point “A” to Point “B”, and is usually not intended to provide a leisure experience.

What accessibility aspects of an exterior path of travel are you consulting on?

We are seeking input on the design and placement of rest areas (such as benches, picnic tables, etc.) along the exterior path of travel.

What is on-street parking?

On-street parking refers to parking spaces that are located on a street or roadway, as opposed to in a separate parking lot area. It most often consists of parallel parking.

What accessibility aspects of on-street parking are you consulting on?

We are seeking input on the need, location and design of accessible on-street parking space.

What if I would like to comment on a project that is already built?

You can always contact the City of London Planning Department at 519 661-4980 or e-mail planning@london.ca. We will record your comments on file and see if there is a possibility of accommodating your request.
If you have a concern regarding the accessibility of any municipal service, please contact us by emailing accessibility@london.ca, by telephone at 519-661-2500 extension 2425 or by submitting an Accessibility Feedback Form. We encourage you to share your feedback with us about accessibility at the City of London, as we are always looking for ways to improve.

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Please contact 519-661-2500 Ext. 2425 or accessibility@london.ca if you need information in an alternate format, or require the assistance of a communication support. Arrangements are made upon request by submitting a Customer Accommodation Request Form, and at no additional cost.