



## Staff Report to Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee

**From** Steve Murray, Economic & Community Development Officer

**Date** August 30, 2022

**Subject** Municipality of Grey Highlands Burnside Park Project

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### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Report "Municipality of Grey Highlands Burnside Park Project be received; and
2. That the Grey County Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (GCJAAC) provide input for consideration of accessibility.

### BACKGROUND

Burnside Parkette is an infill site in the heart of downtown Markdale that has fallen into considerable disrepair in recent years. The site links a rear parking lot to the main street commercial district, but due to its poor condition and not being AODA compliant, it is extremely underutilized and a blight on the downtown core. The Municipality has committed to the revitalization of downtown Markdale, including rehabilitating this parkette into a green, accessible, and vibrant community space.

The project will include full excavation to make it fully accessible, adding electrical infrastructure, free public Wi-Fi, green space, and a fully accessible, walkway linking the parking lot to the commercial main street. The final phase of the project will include installation of an outdoor roofing structure to make this area into a 3-season community hub, with the ability to support pop-up markets, performances, and exhibitions, and expanded opportunities for community gatherings. The transformation of Burnside Parkette into a green and accessible hub will help foster a more inclusive community

space and take steps to remove existing barriers for persons with mobility or visual impairments. The existing configuration of the Parkette is awkward, with furnishings and planters placed in such a way that requires significant maneuvering to get from one side of the Parkette to the other. This project will remove these barriers and adjust the layout so that there is a more straightforward route through the area with better visual cues. In 2021, the Municipality of Grey Highlands' Council approved the Burnside Park Revitalization Project and were successful in acquiring a grant from the Canada Community Revitalization Fund to support the project

The main goals of the revitalization project are to replace the uneven interlocking brick throughout the park with a 10-foot-wide, stamped concrete walkway down the middle of the space. Artificial turf will be installed on top of concrete on either side of the walkway, providing a level, firm stable base under the turf. The space will have six new shelters and improved lighting. Within the park more than 20% of the seating will be accessible.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Municipality of Grey Highlands wishes to consult the GCJAAC as part of this project and in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). Feedback will be considered when installing the shelters, stamped concrete and artificial turf.

The Municipality of Grey Highlands appreciates the time and consideration given by the GCJAAC and thanks them for their contribution to this discussion.

If additional information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

Steve Murray  
Economic & Community Development Officer

## Appendix A

### **Burnside Park Project 46 Main St. Markdale Grey Highlands**

The parkette is situated in downtown Markdale at 46 Main St. The previous parkette included interlocking brick, bricked flower gardens and benches. The interlocking brick was heaving and uneven, and the flower gardens and benches worn and damaged. The new parkette will include a seamless transition from the sidewalk to a new 10-foot-wide walkway, with turf on either side and six shelters. The park will also be electrified to include improved lighting and other electrical uses.

An aerial view of the park layout is depicted below and a photo of the former parkette from Main St. Markdale. Portable, accessible washrooms will also be situated on site.

**Photo one**



**Photo 2**



**BURNSIDE PARKETTE**  
Between 42 & 50 Main Street West, Markdale

EXISTING MUNICIPAL SIDEWALK



3 canopies per side (with retractable shade canopies)  
Each canopy measures 16' x 10' wide, covering a total length of 48' per side



EXISTING GRAVEL PARKING LOT