



Report Accessibility Improvements – Kilsyth Park/Derby Arena and Sarawak Family Park, Township of Georgian Bluffs

Date **Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

From **Niall Loble, Director of Community Services**

Memo Report

This document and its attachments are public and available in an accessible format upon request.

Analysis

Staff are sharing this report and attachments for review, discussion and to be received for information, by the Grey County Accessibility Committee.

Sarawak Family Park

In 2017, The Township of Georgian Bluffs proposed to make a series of improvements to the Sarawak Family Park. These improvements were driven by the desire to increase accessibility to and within the park for all members of the community. While this work has taken longer than anticipated to be completed, staff are pleased to share an update on current progress.

- In 2020/21 improvements were completed to the washroom block at Sarawak Family Park, supported by funds raised by the Order of Good Cheer. These improvements enhanced and modernized the washroom facilities, establishing accessible washrooms at the park.
- In 2022 improvements were completed to the parking lot, aiding drainage, and delineating the parking lot better. Line painting provided clarity regarding parking spaces and a dedicated space was provided for persons with disabilities to make use of, with direct access to the park.
- In 2023, staff are intending to tender, award and complete works to further enhance accessibility. Detailed drawings of this and enclosed with this report and summarized below:
 - A paved area in front of the washrooms will provide easier access to the parking lot and space will be set aside for persons with disabilities to get into the park.



- This paved area will lead to a newly paved trail that will lead through the park, providing a connection between the washroom, parking lot and beach. The trail is contoured through the park to provide an average running slope of no more than 4% on average with a short section approaching 5%.
- The end of the trail will be at the beach. At this point, a 'mobi-mat' (mobility mat) will be added. This can be seasonally installed and provides a firm footing across the sand and peddles for persons to use who use wheels or require a firmer footing beneath their feet.
- Pending confirmation of funding, additional benches will be added to the park, accessed from the trail, that will provide flexible picnic tables for persons using wheelchairs to use, and seating that can be accessed directly from the trail to encourage folks to enjoy the views from this scenic park.

It is hoped that these improvements will enhance accessibility of the park and contribute toward the accessibility and inclusion elements of the Trails and Recreation Master Plan, approved by Council 2020.

Over future years staff are working to:

- Replace and upgrade the play equipment in the park to provide a greater range of accessible play options. This will include adding a new section of accessible trail leading from the one being installed in 2023 to link to the new play equipment.
- Add shade through additional tree planting.

Kilsyth Park/Derby Arena

In 2022 associated with development occurring the Kilsyth, a new park was established, backing onto the Derby Arena/Community Centre. In May 2023, play equipment is being installed in this park. The play equipment has been selected to provide a range of play experiences and provide elements that are accessible to all. This play area will be surfaced using Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) which is approved for accessibility applications.

Landscape work to the park and additional seating will be completed after the installation has been completed.



In addition to the new park, a new trail will be added leading from the existing parking lot for the Community Centre/Arena, to the new park and play area. This trail will provide for residents to be able to park at the arena/community centre and access the park and play equipment.

This trail navigates a steep embankment. Staff have worked with consultants to develop a trail which achieves an average slope of less than 4% with a short section (less than 25m) which will be approximately 5%.

Communications Boards

In addition to working at these two locations as noted above, both locations, and at the play area at Shouldice Park at Shallow Lake, new non-verbal communication boards will be being added. These boards have been provided by Families for Autism and are specifically geared toward aiding communication.

Financial Impact

The Township has budgeted approximately \$200,000, through its Capital works program, supported by external grant aid, to completed the works outlined above and attached.

Respectfully Submitted: Niall Lobley