

Awareness & Education Working Group Quarterly Report – September 2022

Working Group Members

Aimee Burtch
Dinah Cotter
Kate Deacon
Penny Leclair
Corey Scott

Support Staff

Derek Ochej, Acting Deputy City Clerk

2023-25 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan update

Staff provided the working group with an update on the 2023 – 2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan and the engagement plan to receive feedback from the public. It was suggested that the final plan should contain a glossary or index of commonly used acronyms and legislative terms.

Accessibility Mapping

Staff provided the working group with an update on progress regarding the accessibility mapping tool for City facilities and parks. The tool was put into production a few years ago but finalization had been postponed.

The working group provided the following comments on the mapping tool and the project in general:

- There is a significant volume of information contained in the current mapping. The map should only cover content that is publicly accessible and there is a need to right-size the information so as to not overwhelm the user with data.
- There was a question regarding how quickly the access restriction function can be updated on the map. Upon follow up, staff have learned that there is a user interface that will allow a designated City staff member to update information quickly once alerted to an access restriction.

- It was suggested that the data from the mapping be shared with [AccessNow](#), an existing privately sourced accessibility mapping tool.
- It was suggested that new parks be added to the mapping tool as they are completed. This work can be examined as an addition to Project Team work for new parks, whereby upon the closing of a Project Team accessibility staff would be advised to add data to the mapping tool.
- It was suggested that the location of garbage cans and recycling containers be added to the map, for both a user access perspective as well as to note potential access restrictions as these containers can block accessible pathways.
- Distinction should be made between a washroom and a change room.
- It was suggested that the number of data points regarding accessible pathway and sidewalk curb cut be reduced and that focus should be placed on highlighting barrier-free routes in their totality instead.

Celebrating Accessibility Awards

Staff provided an update on the planning for the Celebrating Accessibility Awards, scheduled for Thursday December 1. In discussion with the Working Group members, it was agreed that should public health conditions allow, the event should be held in-person, with optional live-streaming of the event for those who may not be able to attend in-person. Regarding potential location for the event, it was agreed that a City facility that meets accessibility requirements should be pursued. Staff suggested the use of the Kingston East Community Centre.

Regarding promotion for the event, it was suggested that pre-recorded videos be used in a promotional campaign as was done with the awards in 2020.