

Wolfville: Access by Design

An Accessibility Plan for 2019-2022



Working to provide access for all.



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For important terms, check out
“What the Words Mean (Glossary of Terms)” on page 6.



Welcome

On behalf of the Town of Wolfville's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), and the Town's staff members, I invite you to read the Town's first Accessibility Plan. Nova Scotia is the third province in Canada that has adopted an accessibility law. Wolfville was selected by the Province to be the first town to create an accessibility plan. This plan is meant to serve as an example for other communities in the province. The Town created the Committee in order to receive guidance in writing the accessibility plan and organizing actions to improve accessibility. In accordance with section 44 (2) of the Accessibility Act, "At least one half of the members of an accessibility advisory committee must be persons with disabilities or representatives from organizations representing persons with disabilities." Wolfville's Committee meets this requirement.

Our plan, *Wolfville: Access by Design*, is the result of the collaboration of the Town of Wolfville, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate within the Department of Justice, and members of the public. Members of the public were invited to provide input regarding their areas of concern about accessibility in Wolfville. We asked for comments and concerns at community meetings, including a well-attended priority-setting session at the Farmers' Market. Members of the public were also invited to provide feedback online, and attend Committee meetings that included time for their questions and comments. During meetings, Committee members provided input to Town staff members on setting priorities for accessibility. In turn, staff members from both the Town and the Nova Scotia Accessibility Directorate wrote several versions of the plan, according to input they received from the public and the Committee.



Built Environment

Our Commitment

Our public buildings and public spaces will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities, whether we own, lease, or operate the space. We will also encourage citizens, the business community, and Acadia University to make other public and private spaces accessible.

Our Starting Point

Overview

The Town of Wolfville owns, leases, and operates public facilities such as Town Hall, Rotary Park, many sidewalks, parking areas, and a wide variety of other buildings, parks, and infrastructure (basic structures and systems that help the Town run smoothly).

Achievements

- Reservoir Park and Harvest Moon Trail have been improved to include areas that are more accessible.
- Sidewalk rebuilding is included in the 10-year capital investment plan, and sidewalk repairs now have more attention in the Operations Plan.
- The Town bought additional equipment to speed up snow removal.
- The customer service counter in Town Hall is a height that is wheelchair accessible.
- Town Hall is barrier free on the first floor.

Barriers

- Some sidewalks and walkways are uneven.
- Some entryways to public and private buildings are narrow.

Policies

For Public Spaces

The Town of Wolfville will...

- By 2021, ensure that all or most municipal facilities meet the Accessibility requirements (Schedule “C”) in the latest version of the Nova Scotia Building Code Regulation. For facilities not completed by that date, have a plan in place to complete the work by 2025.
- Ensure that all new municipal buildings (including major renovations) meet the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification (RHFAC) Gold Standard.
- Provide basic access for people of all ages and abilities to public buildings, public washrooms, and at public parks with a natural slope of less than 5 percent (e.g., parts of Reservoir Park; Harvest Moon Trail; Quiet Park; parts of Willow Park, etc.).
- Ensure sidewalks and curb cuts within the Core area are improved and maintained, as soon as possible, to the standard outlined in Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B651-18, Accessible Design for the Built Environment.
- Provide accessible parking locations, and associated curb cuts, spread throughout the Core Area.
- Provide crosswalks and curb-cuts in areas where there are many pedestrians, such as near schools and parks.

For Community Partnerships

The Town of Wolfville will...

- Encourage private developers to have their existing buildings RHFAC-certified and for new developments to meet the RHFAC Gold Standard.
- Offer density bonusing (negotiated changes to zoning rules) to private developers who meet the Rick Hansen Gold Standards within the Core Area.

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