

Accessible Parking Spaces at Strathcona County Park Spaces**Report Purpose**

To provide an assessment and recommendations regarding the accessible parking stalls at the entrances to the walking paths, along green spaces, and designated parks and playgrounds in Strathcona County.

Recommendation

THAT administration include an accessible parking project plan for Council's consideration as part of the 2023 Budget package.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 2 Priority - A diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and an accessible community for all

Goal 2 Priority - Social supports that enhance community well-being and safety, and build community connection

Goal 4 Priority - Optimal use of resources that meets the community's needs

Report*Background*

Parking is an essential component of any transportation system. Public on-street parking is available along most urban and rural roads throughout the County. Parking in Strathcona County is governed through the Traffic Control Bylaw as well as the provincial *Traffic Safety Act*. Government of Alberta's Safety Codes Council published the Barrier Free Design Guide which provides requirements for accessible parking stalls within parking lots and are defined at the development stage.

Currently, there is no County policy to guide the installation of accessible parking stalls on public roads along parks. There is no standard practice or guideline to install accessible parking stalls, and currently only specific locations are provided through an individual request process. The Transportation Planning and Engineering department has conducted an assessment as requested by Council at all locations throughout the County to assess the feasibility, cost, and impact of implementing accessible parking stalls.

Accessible parking assessment

In order to complete this request, a specific criterion was developed to outline the guidelines for the assessment of accessible parking spaces. The guidelines for the assessment of the accessible parking program related to the Council motion are as provided:

- Local residential parking adjacent to and intended for residents, will not be impacted by the placement of an accessible parking stall.
- Accessible parking stalls are assumed to be 7m (23 feet) in length to accommodate one parking stall.
- Location preference near crosswalks is to be at the far side of a crosswalk, to not impede crosswalk sightlines.
- Only one accessible parking space will be included for each green space/park location even when more than one road fronts the area.

- Spaces cannot be placed within 5m of fire hydrants, within 5m of a crosswalk, in front of a community mailbox, and not within a transit stop zone (23m before and 12m after the bus stop sign, as per the bylaw).
- Two accessible parking signs are required for parallel parking spaces to delineate the space.
- Accessible parking spaces will require an accessible curb ramp with concrete surfacing to access the sidewalk or trail.
- Locations with parking lots, such as schools and recreation centres have dedicated accessible stalls, therefore, an additional parking space is not required.
- Parallel parking spaces adjacent to an existing concrete ramp to a sidewalk or trail do not require the construction of a new ramp. Accessible parking signs are required (this is only applicable to locations that have a designated parking lane without curb extensions to avoid needing to enter the drive lane to access the ramp).

Based on the above guidelines, 111 parking spots were identified throughout Strathcona County, of those, 82 require a concrete ramp constructed. A map showing parks and assumed locations of accessible parking stalls is included in Enclosure 2. The estimated construction and implementation costs are provided in Enclosure 1 and summarized below:

Sign installation cost = \$55,500 (cost per sign estimated to be \$250 each)
Concrete ramps cost = \$410,000 (cost per ramp is estimated to be \$5,000 each)
20% construction contingency = \$93,100
Engineering design and survey = \$100,000
Total estimated cost = \$658,600

Costs are to be validated and confirmed through open tender processes, however, are intended to provide an order of magnitude for discussion and recommendations.

Council and Committee History

April 26, 2022 Council approved: THAT administration prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of the third quarter of 2022 on the feasibility and implications of all Strathcona County park spaces, including entrances to walking paths around storm management ponds, having designated disabled parking spaces for the first 15 metres of said entrances.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: Traffic Control Bylaw, *Alberta Traffic Safety Act*

Financial/Budget: n/a

Interdepartmental: Transportation Planning and Engineering, Planning and Development Services, Enforcement Services, Transportation and Agriculture Services

Master Plan/Framework: Integrated Transportation Master Plan

Communication Plan

Public awareness can be achieved through on-site signing and social media release.

Enclosures

- 1 Accessible parking spaces by ward and cost estimates
- 2 Accessible parking spaces map
- 3 Accessible parking spaces at Strathcona County park spaces presentation