

# Accessibility Advisory Committee

## Report

3rd Meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee  
March 22, 2018  
Committee Room #4

Attendance                   PRESENT: J. Madden (Chair), M. Cairns, L. Chappell, M. Dawthorne, A. Forrest, J. Higgins, N. Judges, P. Moore, K. Ramer and P. Quesnel and J. Bunn (Secretary).

ABSENT: K. Schmidt and F. Simmons.

ALSO PRESENT: C. Da Silva, J. DeVito, K. Husain, A. Macpherson, L. McDougall and J. Michaud.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

### 1. Call to Order

#### 1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

### 2. Scheduled Items

#### 2.1 Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South)

That the Conservation Master Plan for the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (South) BE ENDORSED by the Accessibility Advisory Committee; it being noted that the Meeting Minutes from the ESA CMP Planning Process and the AODA Information Meeting held on February 21, 2018, as well as the attached presentation from L. McDougall, Ecologist, were received.

#### 2.2 Playground Proposal for the South West Community Centre

That the implementation of Option 1, as outlined in the attached presentation from J. Michaud, Landscape Architect, for the proposed playground at the South West Community Centre, BE SUPPORTED by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### 3. Consent

#### 3.1 2nd Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

That the 2nd Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 22, 2018, BE RECEIVED.

#### 3.2 City of London Planning Services Committee Information Meeting - Supervised Consumption Facilities and Temporary Overdose Prevention Sites

That the Notice from City of London Planning Services with respect to a Community Information Meeting related to planning for supervised consumption facilities and temporary overdose prevention sites, from L. Maitland, Planner I, BE RECEIVED.

3.3 Notice of Application - City of London - Old East Village

That the Notice of Application dated March 12, 2018, from C. Parker, Senior Planner, with respect to an application by the City of London related to the Old East Village, BE RECEIVED.

3.4 Municipal Council Resolution - 1st Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

That the Municipal Council resolution from its meeting held on March 6, 2018, with respect to the 1st Report of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, BE RECEIVED.

**4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups**

None.

**5. Items for Discussion**

5.1 2018 Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Plan

That the revised attached 2018 Work Plan for the Accessibility Advisory Committee BE FORWARDED to the Municipal Council for consideration.

5.2 Accessibility Advisory Committee Deferred List

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee Deferred List, as of March 2018, BE RECEIVED.

**6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business**

6.1 (ADDED) Sub-Committee Chairs and Meeting Dates

That J. Madden BE APPOINTED as Interim Chair of the Built Environment Sub-Committee and P. Moore BE APPOINTED as Chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee; it being noted that both the Built Environment Sub-Committee and the Transportation Sub-Committee will meet the second Tuesday of each month.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM.



# Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south) Conservation Master Plan – March 2018

## Accessibility Advisory Committee

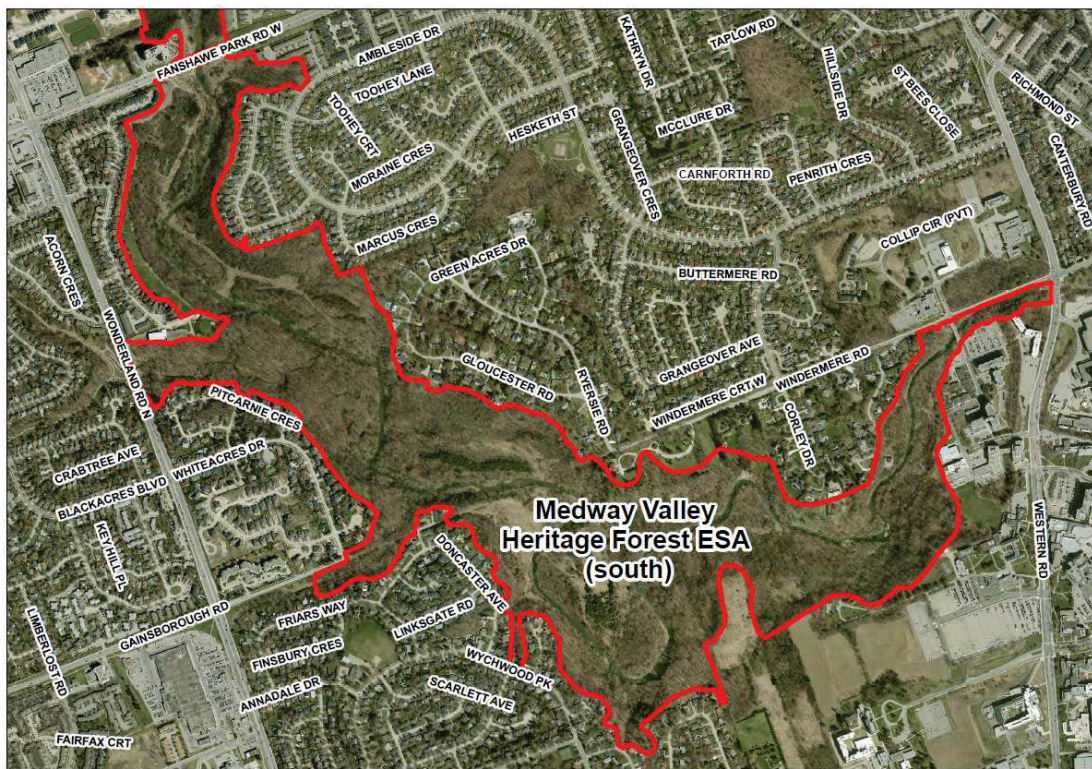


London  
CANADA



March 22, 2018

### Medway VHF ESA Southern Portion - Location



Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA (south)

0 75 150 300 450 600 Meters



# London Plan - ESA Conservation Master Plan Policies and AODA Requirements for Trail Systems

- **Section 15.3.8 Official Plan, and, Policy 1421 [London Plan](#)**, “City Council may request the preparation of **conservation master plans** for environmentally significant areas and other natural heritage areas. Conservation master plans may be adopted by Council, and will function as guideline documents for the purposes of providing direction on the management of these areas.”
- **Policy 1422\_3 London Plan** “The identification of **management zones based on ecological sensitivity**, including descriptions of recreational uses and opportunities for eco-tourism to be provided if applicable, and details of access permitted to and within the area, including formalized pathways and **trail systems**.”
- The **Conservation Master Plan process is the “trigger” for Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act (AODA) compliance** requirements for the *trail system* including the **requirement for consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee of Council**



## BACKGROUND

### CONSERVATION MASTER PLAN PROCESS

**PHASE 1:** Community Engagement and Participation ✓  
Life Science Inventory and Evaluation ✓  
Boundary Delineation ✓  
Application of Management Zones & Review of Existing Trails ✓  
Identifying Management Issues ✓

**PHASE 2:** Community Engagement and Participation ✓  
Goals, Objectives, Recommendations ✓  
Ecological Protection, Enhancement & Restoration ✓  
Trail Planning & Design Process ✓  
Priorities for Implementation ✓  
Final Conservation Master Plan ✓



# Goal of the Conservation Master Plan

To develop a comprehensive multi-year [CMP](#) that presents recommendations for achieving long-term ecological integrity and protection of the ESA through the implementation of an **environmental management strategy**.

The proposed Sustainable Trail Concept Plan complies with the Council approved [Guidelines](#) for Management Zones and Trails in ESAs (2016) (*Guidelines*) written with input from ACCAC for providing enhanced accessibility and protection of ESA ecosystems consistent with AODA requirements.



# Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

***By law, you must make recreational trails accessible*** if you are:

- a private or non-profit organization with 1+ employee(s) or a public sector organization; and
- building **new** public recreational trails and planning to maintain them or making major changes to existing ones and planning to maintain them
- ***The Design of Public Spaces Standard (Ontario Reg. 191/11) (“the Standard”)*** there can be exceptional conditions where the need to provide accessible trails may need to be balanced with other legitimate concerns:
  - Exceptions where making the trail accessible would have a negative effect on water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity or natural heritage values
  - In such instances, ***the City is expected to meet the requirements of the Standard to the greatest extent possible.***



# References to AODA in Guidelines

## Section 2.1: Policy for Trail Planning and Design

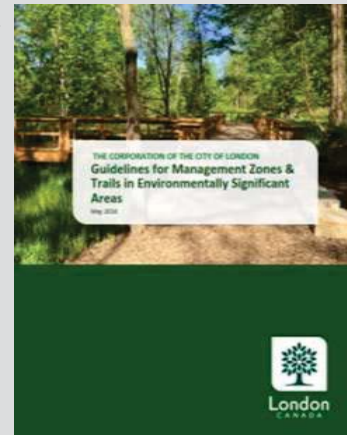
- Enjoyable, safe, accessible trails for recreation appropriate in an ESA and learning environment will be permitted in accordance with recognized accessibility legislation (such as the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA), best practices and the above principles [outlined in Guidelines].

## Section 2.3: Policy for Trail Planning and Design

- Trails to permit access for persons with disabilities, consistent with these guiding principles and AODA requirements, will be provided where this can be achieved while protecting the ecological integrity and ecosystem health of the ESA.

## Section 7.1 : Design and Construction: Trails

- Design and Maintenance Standards: Where the trail is deemed accessible, the trail in its entirety shall meet AODA recreational trail surface requirements for both firmness and stability.



# Environmental Management Strategy: Trail Management Plan

## Utility Overlay

- Due to ongoing access requirements associated with the approximately 5.5 km of underground and aboveground utility infrastructure (hydro corridor, sewers & forcemain) located within the MVHF ESA (south), a Utility Overlay consisting of a 4 m wide corridor was established following the Guidelines.
- Where maintenance access is required, trails are generally located along the same route to minimize impacts to the surrounding ESA. **These trails are to be designed to be compliant with the AODA, where exceptions do not apply, so that trails can accommodate persons with disabilities wherever possible.**

Photo: Example of muddy/wet Level 1 trail over sewer alignment / Utility Overlay south of Glenridge Drive, east side of ESA, near Access 10



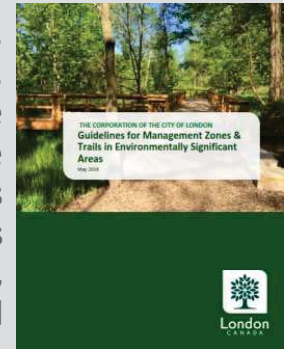
Existing Sewer Manhole



# Environmental Management Strategy: Trail Management Plan

## Nature Reserve (NR) Management Zone

- **Level 1 trails** (e.g. natural earth surface, wood chips, boardwalk, corduroy logs, stepping stones) Structures (e.g. boardwalks, bridges, stairways) may be permitted in NR Zones to reduce impacts to significant ecological features and increase the sustainability of the trail system in the ESA. **These are also areas where exceptions to making trails accessible would apply as such activities may have a negative effect on water, fish, wildlife, plants, invertebrates, species at risk, ecological integrity or natural heritage values.**



## Natural Environment (NE) Management Zone

- **Level 1 and Level 2 trails** may be located in NE Zones where it can be demonstrated that the trail will not result in negative impact to the adjacent ecological features and functions of the ESA. **Trails that comply with the Guidelines in NE zones can/must be made accessible as per AODA. Especially when Utility Overlay is present.**



## ACCAC Involvement in Medway ESA Conservation Master Plan Process

- **August 24, 2017** - first draft of CMP presented at ACCAC meeting for review and comments
- **October 23, 2017** - revised CMP and responses to ACCAC's comments presented at ACCAC (Memo responses to ACCAC comments in Appendix D of CMP)
- **November 16, 2017** - meeting with Chair of ACCAC (and two ACCAC members) re trail plan and accessibility
- **January 9, 2018** - Letter from Chair of ACCAC outlining stance on current plan and 3 proposed enhancements to the trail plan (included in Appendix D of CMP)
- **March 2017** - *CMP now includes all ACCAC's proposed changes to trail plan*
- **ACCAC representative was part of Local Advisory Committee throughout CMP process (6 meetings minutes in Appendix B)**

**Note – Consultation with ACCAC is required under AODA**



## Revised Medway Conservation Master Plan (October 2017)

**“The Accessibility Advisory Committee recognizes some enhancements to accessibility were included in the proposal [October 2017 CMP]. ACCAC is in support of the following proposed changes:**

- **Bridge at crossing A and Level 2 trail from A5 to A10** – as these enhancements will provide an accessible path through the northern most portion of the valley, connecting the Ambleside community to the Medway Valley North Accessible path system... ✓
- **Level 3 trail from A1 to A4** – as this enhancement will create an accessible connection of Medway Valley North, as well as those areas served by the proposed A5 to A10 route ✓
- **Trail surface improvements (such as those near A11 and A12)** being completed to AODA standards ✓
- **2 closed level 2 trail loops beginning at A19 and A14** - as these provide a limited degree of trail/nature experience, however noting this provides no route options, and limit path of travel to one route with a single entrance/egress point.” ✓



## Medway Conservation Master Plan (March 2018)

### **“Accessibility Advisory Committee Proposed Enhancements**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee proposes 3 additional enhancements [to the October 2017 CMP] which would significantly improve accessibility within Medway Valley South while posing no risk to the environment.

- **Upgrade the trail from A11 to the Medway creek at point D**, noting this trail runs primarily along a utility overlay ✓
- **Install a Bridge at crossing D** ✓
- **Extension of the boardwalk at A18** noting significant erosion exists, resulting in muddy surfacing and trail-widening (by those attempting to avoid the mud).” ✓



✓ *Indicates included in March 2018 [Conservation Master Plan](#)*





## What might an Accessible Linkage at look like at A & D?

- Bridge south of Sunningdale Road West in MVHF ESA







# Trail Management - Accessibility and Wayfinding

In response to ACCAC comments - new AODA compliant signage is proposed in CMP at all access points to include a map and identifies:

- The length of trail
- The type of surface of which the trail is constructed
- The average and minimum trail width
- The average and maximum running and cross slope
- The location of amenities, where provided

## Accessible Trail Information

- Kiosk north to Saunders Pond viewpoint (0.1km)
- Kiosk east to Saunders Cabin (0.2km)
- Saunders Cabin east to trail fork (0.2km)
- Kiosk south to Dearness (0.4km)

Tread Width	Running Slope	Cross Slope	Trail Surface
			
Avg. 200cm or 6.5ft (min. 190cm or 6ft)	Avg. 2% (max. 5%)	Avg. 2% (max. 3%)	Asphalt, granular & boardwalk

## Accessible Amenities:

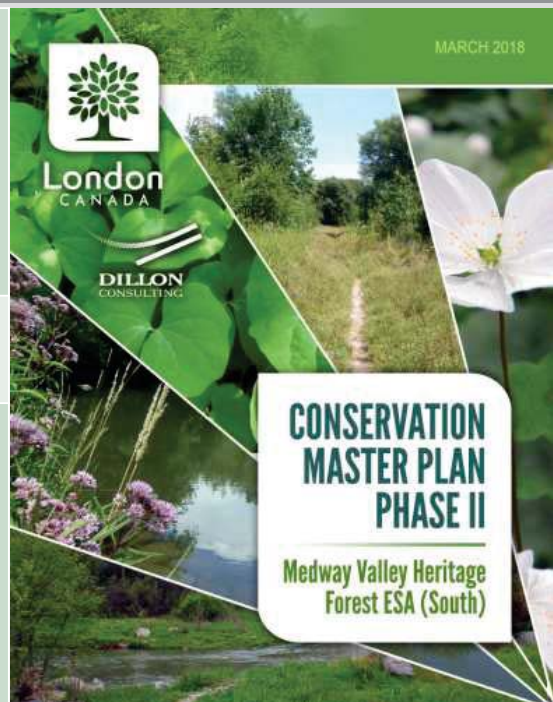
- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Bench   |  Viewpoint                |
|  Parking |  W.E. Saunders Cabin Site |

*Example of Existing Accessible AODA Signage at Westminster Ponds ESA – Tourism Building*



## Next Steps

<b>March 16, 2018</b>	Final Medway VHF ESA (South) Conservation Master Plan (CMP) on City website
<b>March 21, 2018</b>	Presentation to ACCAC for CMP endorsement
<b>April 16, 2018 (Not to be heard before 5pm)</b>	Presentation to Planning and Environment Committee of Council (PEC) – Delegation / ACCAC chair to speak at PEC



# South West Community Centre Playground

Presentation to the Accessibility Advisory Committee,  
March 22, 2018

[london.ca](http://london.ca)

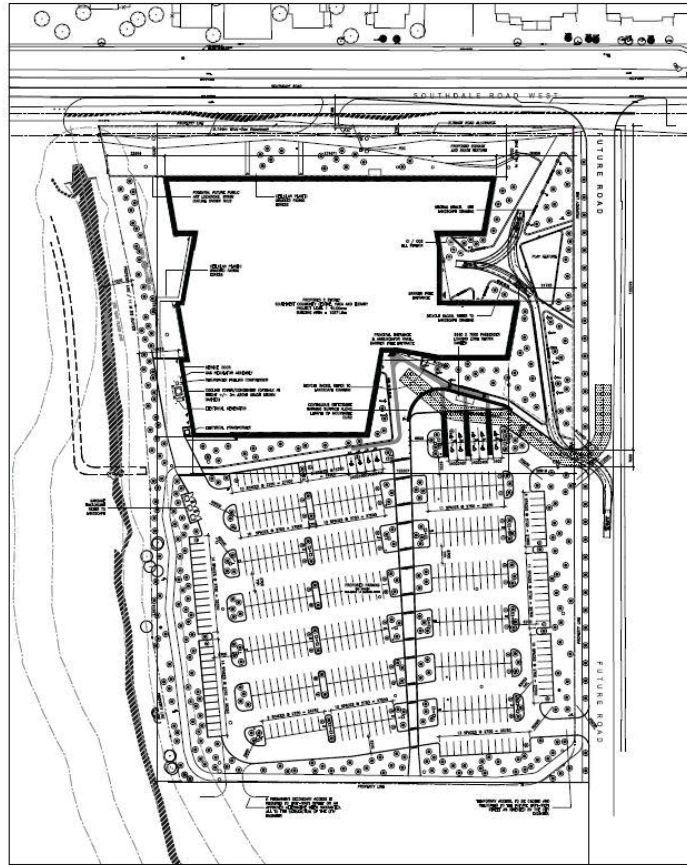


## South West Community Centre Location Map

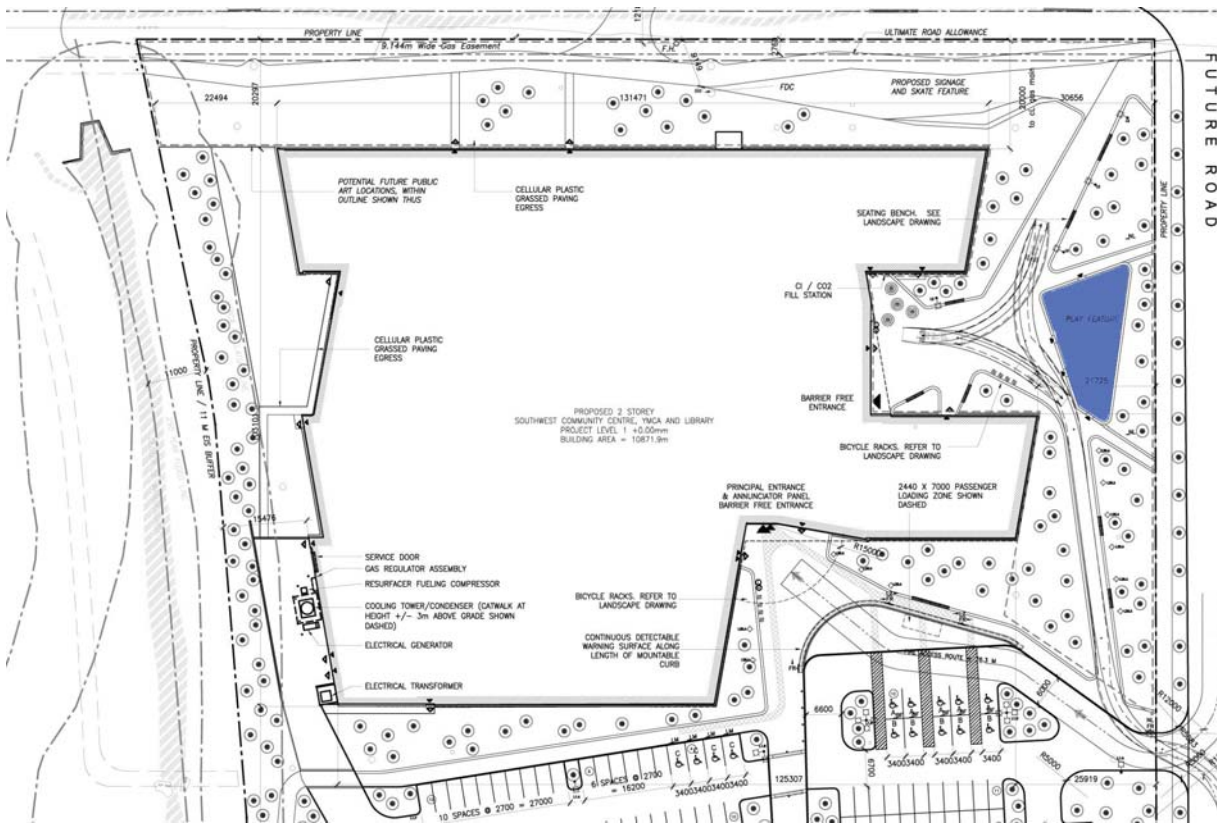




london.ca



01 SITE PLAN



london.ca

# Playground Accessibility

Two options are presented for this site.

✓ Both options meet AODA:

- Physical play
- Sensory play
- Firm and stable safety surfacing

✓ Both options have a rubber safety surfacing

✓ Both options have some motion play

✓ Both options have some collaborative play

✓ Both options have some independent play

✓ Both have partial ramp access leading to a play opportunity

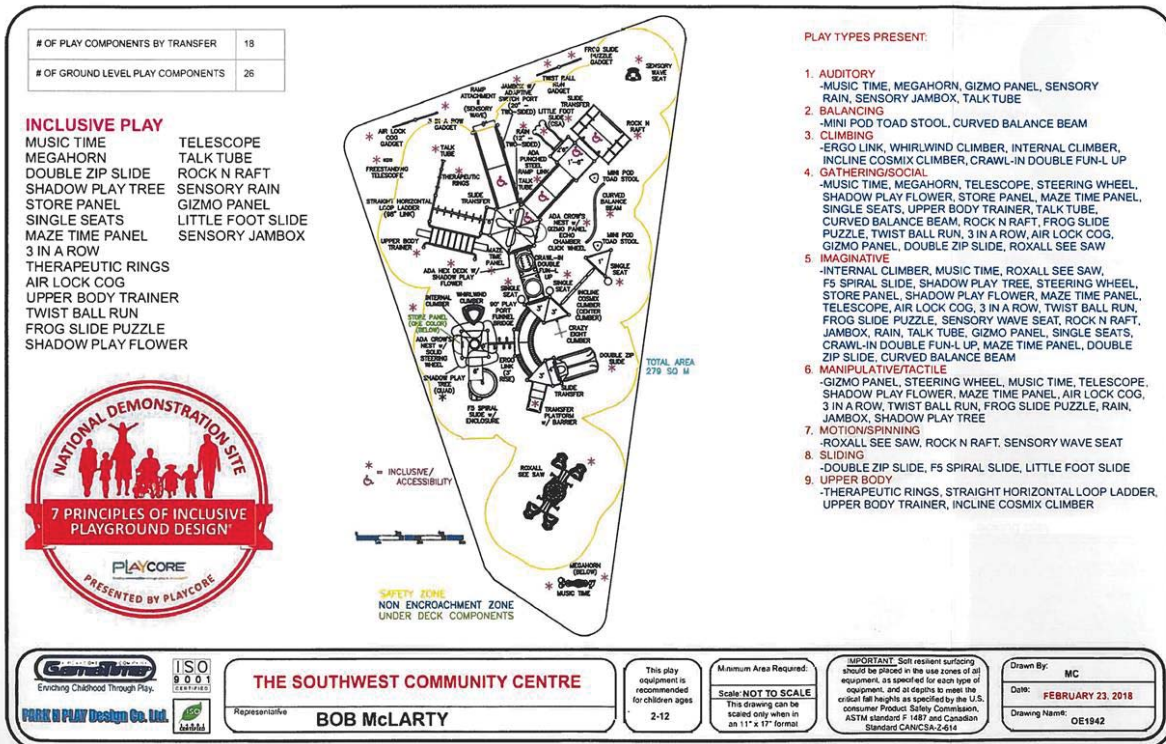


# THE SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTRE



london.ca

Playground Option 1



london.ca

Playground Option 1

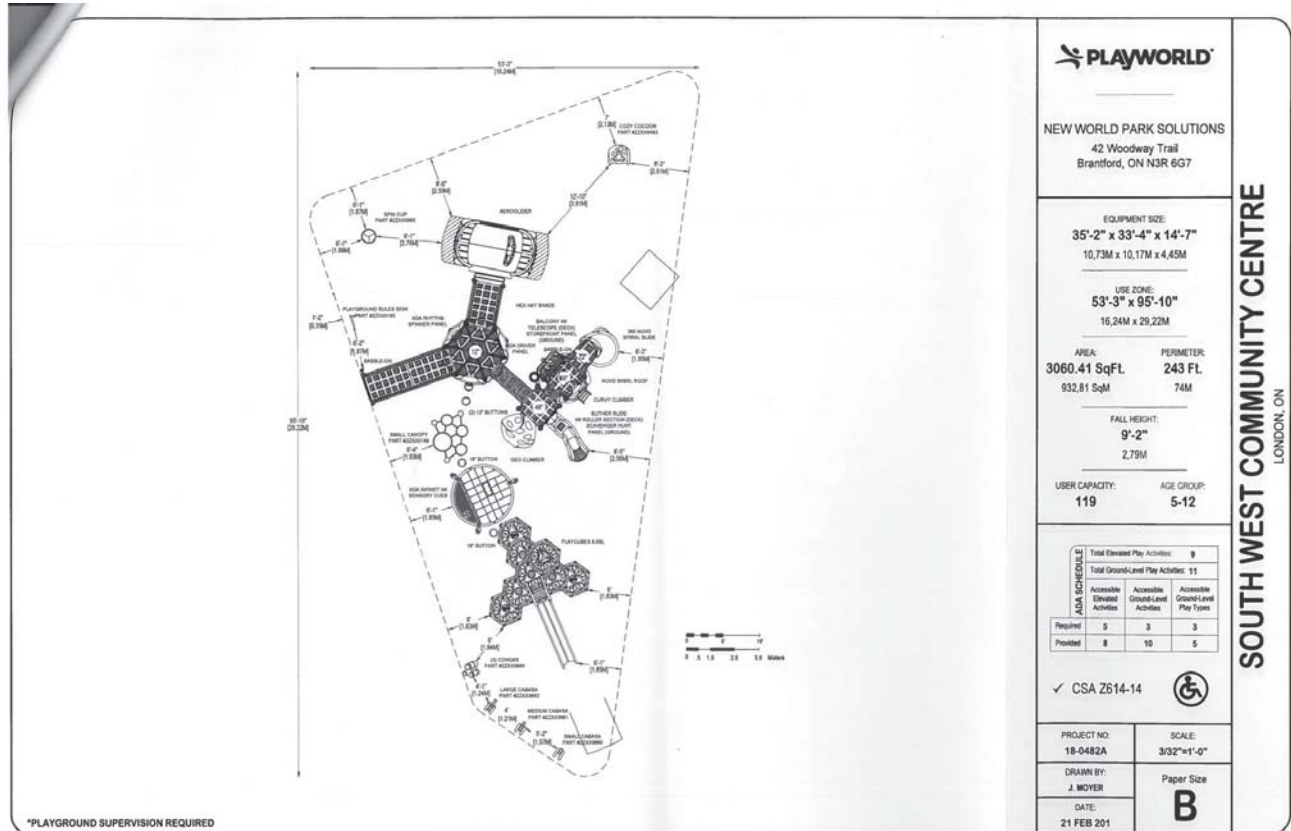


[london.ca](http://london.ca)

Playground Option 2



[london.ca](http://london.ca)



london.ca

Playground Option 2



# Comparison

## Option 1

- Lots of accessible play opportunities:
  - Rock and Raft
  - Roxall See Saw (Tr)
  - Upper body trainer
  - Sensory wave seat (Tr)
  - Double slide (Tr)
  - Sound elements
  - Talk tubes
  - Adaptive Switch Technology
- Less challenging for the 5 to 12 age group
  - Height of most platforms is 3' or less
  - Only one slide at 6' high

## Option 2

- More challenging for the 5 to 12 age group
  - Play cubes – 10' high
  - 2 Slides at 6' high
- Some accessible play opportunities:
  - Aeroglider
  - Spinner (Tr)
  - Net with sensory cues (Tr)
  - Sound elements
  - Cozy cocoon (Tr)





# Discussion

- 1) Recommendation to go with Option 1 as it offers more in terms of accessible play opportunities and creates a more inclusive play space.
- 2) Consult on the needs of people with disabilities and care givers regarding the play space.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2Uf-4hhCmE>

**2018 ACCAC Work Plan**

Project/Initiative	Background	Lead/Responsible	Proposed Timeline	Proposed Expenses	Proposed Budget	Relation to London Strategic Plan	Status
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) representative	Designated ACCAC rep on TAC	As elected by ACCAC	Ongoing	NIL	NIL	The strategic plan repeatedly references the Transportation Master plan, one of the primary documents used to direct the actions of TAC	
Trails Advisory Group (TAG) Representative	Designated ACCAC rep on TAG	As elected by ACCAC	Ongoing	NIL	NIL	Building a sustainable City 2.A (pg 11)	
Prepare formal recommendations to council based on the feedback gathered during the Accessibility themed open-house(s)/community consultation(s)	ACCAC completed 5 community open houses throughout 2017 workplan.	Education and Awareness Sub-committee	winter/spring 2018	NIL	NIL	Leading in Public Service 1A; 4A; Strengthening Communities 2B; 3A; 5C; 5H	
Long Term Planning	Host a Strategic Planning Session with all ACCAC members to develop Short term (2019 Work Plan)	Chair/Vice-Chair	Fall 2018	Food, Space	200	Strengthening Communities 3A Note: development of Accessibility plan in conjunction with ACCAC is mandated under AODA legislation	
Site Plan Reviews	This is mandated under AODA legislation (See Site Plan Process best practice Initiative)	Chair/Vice-Chair	Ongoing	NIL	NIL	This is mandated under AODA legislation	
Continue to advocate for use and expansion of FADS document	ACCAC has identified several areas where the FADS document could be expanded or strengthened. Ideally the municipality would expand FADS to include these areas, including but not limited to: community gardens, playgrounds, trails, parks, etc.	Policy and Bylaw Subcommittee	Ongoing	NIL	NIL	Strengthening our Community 4C; 5H Building a Sustainable City 2A, 4D	
Review/revise best practices/accessibility guidelines and considerations for Site plan review process (developed by ACCAC in 2016) based on staff feedback	Site Plan review is mandated responsibility of ACCAC since the ODA (2001) Changes to AODA, Ontario Building Code and FADS have ensured most accessibility requirements are now met. Legislation still has some gaps or variances (e.g. applicable to different parties) Best practices/accessibility guidelines and considerations may include a review checklist or information document available/distributed with building or renovation permit requests City staff are using the checklist and are set to return to ACCAC for discussion and follow-up.	Built Environment Sub-Committee	Dependent on staff timelines - estimated Spring/Summer 2018	NIL	NIL	Leading in Public Service 5A	

Consult/Advise members of the public/external parties upon requests or referral from city staff	Historically ACCAC has received, often through City staff or accessibility@london.ca, requests to advise builders, architects, businesses, and citizens (amongst many other groups) on aspects of accessibility	Variable sub-committees or ACCAC Chair/Vice Chair; as appropriate	Ongoing	NIL	Nil	Strengthening our Community 1A; 5B; 5C; 5H
Undertake Community Outreach to raise Awareness of ACCAC and its role within the city; Promote resources developed by ACCAC to Londoners	ACCAC has historically partaken in outreach varying from hosting full day conferences, to Lunch 'N' Learns, to exhibiting at community events (e.g. Car-free Sundays) Opportunities will focus primarily on exhibiting at events, and may include King's College Social Work Week, Dundas Street Festival, etc.	Education and Awareness Sub-committee	Ongoing	registration costs, ACCAC materials	>\$100 per session; not to exceed \$1000 annually	Leading in Public Service 1A; Strengthening Communities 2B; 3A;
Access2 expansion	Several years ago the City of London became the first municipality in Canada to accept the Access2 Card (Easter Seals program) at all municipal venues. During that expansion London also went from 3 to 48 venues accepting the card. Many new venues/programs now exist and could be approached. During 2017 ACCAC began this process by developing a list of potential sites/venues.	Education and Awareness Sub-committee	Ongoing throughout 2018	NIL	NIL	Strengthening our Community 2B, 2C, 3A
Review Deaf/Blind child at play sign policies	ACCAC members have noted many of these signs have been placed in the same location for decades. This has raised questions about the program	Policy Subcommittee	winter-spring 2018	NIL	NIL	Strengthening our Community 5B
Investigate/discuss benefits/impact of making ACCAC brochures/materials in American Sign Language and other accessible formats	During revision of ACCAC materials in 2016, some members questioned whether we were reaching all Londoners who may benefit from the information in our materials and encouraged we explore alternate languages. In 2017 it was determined alternate language was not recommended, however the need to reproduce content in ASL	Education and awareness subcommittee	Summer/Fall 2018	translation costs	2000	Strengthening our Community 2A
City wide meeting accessibility protocols and procedure	A 2016 ACCAC meeting did not have an access team for a member require it. Was informed there was no policy or procedure for proceeding/cancellations in such circumstances. Initial meetings were held with city staff and some recommendations were already made in 2017, however more formal protocols should be developed	Policy Subcommittee	Fall 2018	NIL	NIL	Strengthening our Community 2C
Investigate and make recommendation to City on accessibility in 'non-traditional' parks (e.g. community gardens, dog parks, urban agriculture); this may or may not overlap with FADS expansion also included in this plan	ACCAC members have noted many opportunities for enhanced accessibility at outdoor municipal venues/parks. Have worked with Trails, community gardens to date.	Built Environment Sub-Committee	Spring - Fall 2018	NIL	NIL	Strengthening our Community 4C; 5H Building a Sustainable City 2A, 4D

Engage in discussions around Paratransit and what role, if any, the city could/should undertake in improving the service, noting it is an LTC service, not that of the city directly	Paratransit system is significantly overburdened and very cumbersome for users (requiring prebooking 3 days prior, often taking numerous calls to get through, booking times sometimes hours earlier than desired). Many requests go unfilled	Transportation Working Group	Spring-Fall 2018	potential meeting/consultation sessions, food, space	1200	Strengthening our Community 5H	
Participate in the development and review of the 2018-2021 Accessibility Plan	mandated responsibility of ACCAC under the AODA	Policy Subcommittee, final draft to be brought to full committee	Per staff timeline	NIL	Nil	Accessibility Action Plan 2013-2017	
Develop and maintain AODA policies, procedures, practices, particularly for the new Integrated Standard.	Included in the current 2013-2017 Accessibility Plan	Policy Subcommittee	Ongoing	NIL	Nil	Accessibility Action Plan 2013-2017	
Review City Budget with an accessibility lens.	Included in the current 2013-2017 Accessibility Plan	Chair/Vice-Chair	During budget season	NIL	Nil	Accessibility Action Plan 2013-2017	
Annually nominate a candidate for the Mayor's New Year's Honor List under the Persons with Disabilities category.	Included in the current 2013-2017 Accessibility Plan	Chair/Vice-Chair	Fall 2018	NIL	Nil	Accessibility Action Plan 2013-2017	
Continue to develop and distribute pamphlets to inform the public about issues related to persons with disabilities.	Included in the current 2013-2017 Accessibility Plan	Education and Awareness Subcommittee	Ongoing	printing	\$1,200	Accessibility Action Plan 2013-2017	
Review resource historic documents produced by ACCAC, currently posted on london.ca	ACCAC completed review of 2 existing documents in 2017 (Outdoor events, financial resources) and felt review of remaining documents was prudent	Education and Awareness Subcommittee	Fall 2018	NIL	NIL	Leading in Public Service 1B; 1C Strengthening our Community 3A	
Produce an 'Awareness Calendar' highlighting awareness days, weeks, months related to Accessibility and disability	This used to be done monthly but was only shared amongst ACCAC. To promote Accessibility and awareness it was felt a broadening of this approach would benefit the community. ACCAC endeavors to create the calendars and engage city staff on including it/merging it with other cultural/awareness calendars currently used/posted by the city	Education and Awareness Subcommittee	Spring/Summer 2018	NIL	NIL		
Advise council on manner to better acknowledge and reflect important awareness dates, including International Day for Persons with a Disability (Dec 3)	Similar to the Awareness calendar, acknowledging key dates of importance will elevate the awareness of Accessibility and our community.	Education and Awareness Subcommittee	Fall 2018	NIL	NIL		

Investigate alternative participation at meetings and sub-committee meetings to increase participation	Under the previous council a survey was sent out regarding Advisory Committee interest in remote access to committee meetings. No further announcement was made after feedback was provided. ACCAC historically experiences Quorum issues, in part due to members missing meetings for the very reason they were appointed (e.g. their disability makes attendance impossible, unable to coordinate Paratransit, etc.)	Education and Awareness Sub-committee	Spring/Summer 2018	potential software/connection fees	\$500		
				Total	not to exceed \$6000 (ACCAC's historically approved Annual budget)		