

REPORT TO: Mayor and Members of Council

PREPARED BY: Brandon Drew, Director of Economic Development & Community Services

DEPARTMENT: Community Services

DIVISION: Facilities and Parks

MEETING DATE: May 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Report DEDCS-12-2026 – Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant

PROPOSED MOTION

THAT Council receive the report DEDCS-12-2026 titled “Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant” as information;

AND THAT Council direct staff to apply for the Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant to install a paved pathway network in the Parkhill Sports Park.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the report DEDCS-12-2026 titled “Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant” as information;

AND THAT Council direct staff to apply for the Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant to install a paved pathway network in the Parkhill Sports Park.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant provides up to \$60,000 in fully funded support for projects that improve accessibility and promote active, inclusive community living for people with disabilities and older adults. Staff have identified the development of an AODA-compliant paved pathway at the Parkhill Sports Park as a strong candidate, addressing a long-standing accessibility need while remaining within the program’s funding limit with an estimated budget of \$58,925. The project will proceed only

if grant funding is secured and is expected to have no impact on the 2026 budget, with minimal long-term maintenance costs.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Staff, Culture, Work Environment By providing high-quality public services

Fiscal Responsibility By continuing to pursue funding from various levels of government and external organizations

Quality of Life, Recreation, Parks, and Culture By creating and maintaining high-quality public spaces and promote aging in place in the community

BACKGROUND

The Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone Grant funds projects that improve accessibility and support active lifestyles for people with disabilities and older adults. It supports these individuals to live more active, healthy, safe and socially connected lives within their communities.

The program offers up to \$60,000 in grant to fund small capital projects that focus on making outdoor spaces, buildings and housing more accessible for everyone.

DISCUSSION

Staff have identified a future capital improvement as meeting the criteria for this project, with pathways through parks having been a discussion for multiple budget cycles as a needed accessibility improvement for North Middlesex parks. With a grant available offering 100% funding, Staff believe this is an opportunity to complete the largest park pathway that North Middlesex would have, located at the Parkhill Sports Park, while staying under the maximum funding eligibility of \$60,000.00.

A rough draft of where the proposed paved path will be is highlighted below. Note that more formal drawings will be prepared for the actual design and tender of the project, should funding be received.



Proposed specifications on the proposed pathway is as follows:

- Linear length = 280m
- Proposed area = 610m²

Proposed Budget

| Item | Budgeted Cost |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Granular A | \$2,500.00 |
| Granular B | \$9,000.00 |
| Asphalt | \$18,000.00 |
| Curb Work | \$2,000.00 |
| Tactile Plates | \$4,175.00 |
| Grounds Restoration | \$5,000.00 |
| Removals | \$5,750.00 |
| Contingency | \$5,000.00 |
| Electrical | \$7,500.00 |

Our Values:

Community

Innovation

Collaboration

Stewardship

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Total | \$58,925.00 |
|--------------|--------------------|

The total funding request will be \$58,925.00, and the project will not proceed without receiving the grant funding to do so. The trail installed will be AODA-compliant and include proper lighting and design considerations that includes width, slopes, etc.

FINANCIAL

This grant is 100% funding, and the project will have no net impact on the 2026 capital budget. Long-term maintenance and replacement costs will have a minimal impact on future operating budgets.

ATTACHMENT

Prepared By: **Brandon Drew, Director of Economic Development & Community Services**

Reviewed By: Ralph D'Alessandro, Director of Finance /Treasurer

Approved By: Samuel Shannon, Interim Chief Administrative Officer