

**CITY OF NANAIMO**  
THE HARBOUR CITY

ATTACHMENT 'A'  
UPDATE ON ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY FACILITIES

# UPDATE ON ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO CITY FACILITIES

*Parks, Recreation & Culture*

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# INTRODUCTION

**2023 – 2026 ACAI Work Plan**

**ACAI WORKPLAN:**

The goal of the workplan is to reduce barriers and improve equity and access to City residents in alignment with City Plan, the Integrated Action Plan priorities, and the terms of reference of the ACAI committee.

Topic	Overview
Accessibility in City Parks, Facilities & City Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rick Hansen Foundation priorities for allocation of funds for the audited facilities.</li><li>• Determine priority for accessibility audits for other City facilities</li><li>• Advise City staff on procedures and best practices for reducing barriers in facilities &amp; infrastructure</li><li>• Advise City staff on specific projects as needed</li></ul>

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# INTRODUCTION

## Purpose

To provide the Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness an update on accessibility improvements carried out at City Recreation Facilities as recommended by the Rick Hanson Foundation Audit, and to seek direction for priority of improvements.

## Recommendation

That the ACAI Committee recommend the following City Recreation Centres receive assessments / audits in 2024:

Oliver Woods Community Centre  
Cliff McNabb Arena  
Nanaimo Museum  
City Hall/SARC

Beban Park Pool  
Nanaimo Ice Centre  
Vancouver Island Military Museum

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# History

- Three facilities were chosen to be audited by the Rick Hansen Foundation:
  - Nanaimo Aquatic Centre,
  - Frank Crane Arena, and
  - Bowen Complex.
- The assessment made suggestions of areas to improve upon in each facility.
- The Rick Hansen Foundation provided one-time funding to assist with the identified recommended upgrades.

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# Nanaimo Aquatic Centre

## Key Areas of Improvement Identified

- Consider installing additional markings on glazed doors and walls to reduce glare and improve identification for those with vision issues. **In progress**
- Consider installing additional directional signage at the reception area and adjacent hallway. **In progress**
- Consider installing signage using Braille, raised text and symbols at accessible locations to improve access to washrooms and offices for those who may have reduced vision or blindness. **In progress**
- Consider installing additional visual fire alarms in accessible washroom and shower areas, to alert people with hearing loss of an emergency. **Completed**

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# Frank Crane Arena

## Key Areas of Improvement

- Consider improving the accessible parking stalls, including markings for a safe pedestrian route to the facility. **In progress/spring**
- Consider installing additional directional signage at the reception area and adjacent hallway. **In progress**
- Consider installing directional signage in the lobby/reception area to improve wayfinding for all to spaces, such as washrooms, elevator, and interior services. **In progress**
- Consider installing signage including Braille, raised text and symbols at accessible locations to improve access to washrooms and offices for those who may have reduced vision or blindness. **In progress**

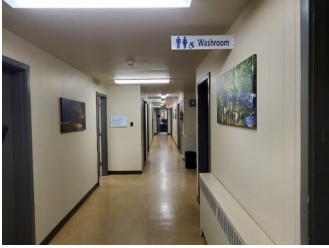


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# Bowen Complex

## Key Areas of Improvement

- Consider installing exterior directional signage to improve wayfinding. **Complete**
- Consider installing tactile attention indicators at the top of interior and exterior staircases to alert those with vision issues or blindness. **In progress**
- Consider installing additional directional signage in the reception area and adjacent hallway. **Complete**
- Consider installing handrails and seating at long hallways to assist those with mobility issues. **In progress**
- Consider replacing knob-style door handles with lever type. **In Progress**
- Consider installing visual fire alarms where needed to alert those with hearing issues or deafness. **Complete**


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# Next Phase of Improvements

- A no slip coating will be added to the surface of the pool deck, shower areas and ramps at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.
- Extra wayfinding blade signage for the three facilities will be installed to ensure adequate coverage.
- Four new wheelchairs added to inventory to assist with moving patrons with disabilities in the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and the Frank Crane Arena
- Installing automatic door openers at the Frank Crane Arena.

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# Future Assessments

- We recognize that this is only the start of assessing our facilities and taking steps to ensuring they are safe and enjoyable for all patrons.
- The following is a list of all the public access facilities and parks that the City of Nanaimo manages:
  - Oliver Woods Community Centre
  - Beban Pool
  - Cliff McNabb Arena
  - Nanaimo Ice Centre
  - Nanaimo Museum
  - Vancouver Island Military Museum
  - City Hall/SARC
  - Rotary Field House
  - Kin Hut
  - Centennial Building
  - Beban House
  - Kin Pool
  - Nanaimo Art Gallery
  - Nanaimo Visitor Centre
  - Nanaimo Port Theatre
  - Animal Shelter

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# Destination Parks

- Colliery Dam Park
- Departure Bay Centennial Park
- Diver Lake Park
- Harewood Centennial Park
- Kin Beach Park
- Loudon Park & Walkway
- Lost Lake Park
- Linley Valley Park
- Piper’s Lagoon Park
- Westwood Lake Park
- Protection Island Park
- Maffeo Sutton / Swy-A-Lana / Spirit Square
- Neck Point Park
- Third Street / Buttertubs / Jingle Pot Marsh

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## Downtown Parks


- Wesley
- Piper
- Italian Fountain
- Dallas
- Conference
- Kiwanis
- Lions Square
- Pearson
- Salish
- Townsite
- Waddington
- Chinese Memorial Gardens
- Elks
- Georgia
- Newcastle
- Lookout
- Bastion Square
- McGregor
- Anchor Way (incl. remainder of Pioneer Plaza)
- Front Street Planter
- Durham
- Pine & Fitzwilliam Sign
- Wellcox Walkway

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## Sports Fields & Playfields

- Barney Moriez Park
- Beban Four Fields and Artificial Turf Fields
- Bowen West
- Caledonia Park / Comox Park
- Departure Bay Centennial Park
- Deverill Square Park
- Diver Lake Park / Elaine Hamilton Park
- Groveland Gyro Park
- Harry Whipper Park
- Mansfield Park
- May Richards Bennett Sports Fields
- Old Harewood School Sports Field
- Pleasant Valley Park
- Robins Park
- Sherry Fields (formerly Harewood Centennial)
- Sid Clark Gyro Park
- Serauxmen Park (Third Street Fields)
- Serauxmen Stadium
- Rotary Bowl
- Harewood Multi-Use Facility
- NDSS Community Artificial Turf Field



## Future Assessments

- As previously discussed two staff members received specialized training from the Rick Hansen Foundation to perform assessments/audits. These staff members will be able to perform assessments/audits instead of bringing in outside contractors.
- The intention is to systematically do assessments/audits at all of the City of Nanaimo facilities and parks and make improvements where needed.


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## Facilities Recommended to Receive Assessments/Audits In 2024

- Oliver Woods Community Centre
- Beban Park Pool
- Cliff McNabb Arena
- Nanaimo Ice Centre
- Nanaimo Museum
- Vancouver Island Military Museum
- City Hall/SARC

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Thank You.

**Questions?**

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