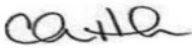




# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 21, 2023
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Accessibility of City Operated Recreation Facilities (HSC23055) (City Wide) <b>(Outstanding Business List Item)</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Laura Kerr (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5015
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## COUNCIL DIRECTION

Emergency & Community Services Committee at its meeting April 20, 2023 approved the following:

Staff were directed to report back on the accessibility level of City operated recreation centres, outdoor pools and arenas, and include which facilities are fully compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the number of gender neutral and barrier free washrooms available, and any additional relevant information, by September 30, 2023.

## INFORMATION

This report provides a summary of the overall accessibility of City operated recreation centres, outdoor pools and arenas, including further information on the Act compliance, barrier free washrooms, and planned capital improvements.

Assets are considered in compliance with the Act so long as they were built to the latest standard when constructed or undergone a major renovation. Considering this, all recreation facilities meet minimum compliance with Accessibility for Ontarians with

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**SUBJECT: Accessibility of City Operated Recreation Facilities (HSC23055) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 3**

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Disabilities Act (AODA), including those where barriers may exist due to aged infrastructure or historical designation. Centres with newer build dates often have greater accessibility features or reduced barriers.

	<b>Recreation &amp; Community Centres/Indoor Pools</b>	<b>Outdoor Pools/Wading Pools</b>	<b>Arenas</b>
<b>Total Facilities (all in compliance with AODA)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>
Facilities considered “highly” accessible (no/limited physical barriers present)	14	4	6
Facilities considered “medium accessible” (some physical barriers present)	14	10	9
Facilities with barrier free washrooms	30	13	16
Facilities with gender neutral/universal washrooms	24	9	9
Total Number of Gender Neutral/ Universal Washrooms Combined at all Facilities	76	12	13

A more detailed listing, including the number of universal washrooms and facility build dates are provided in Appendix “A” to Report HSC23055.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 2012, Recreation has maintained a listing of all recreation facility accessibility levels, including specific accessibility features, barriers and equipment available. This information is provided to the public in compliance with the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) on Recreation’s facility webpages:

[www.hamilton.ca/recreation](http://www.hamilton.ca/recreation)

Recreation staff recognize that not all barriers are physical, and that even low accessibility buildings serve residents who may have additional needs (such as sensory challenges where there is a need for a quieter centre with smaller program spaces). Therefore, the focus is on transparency in communicating facility features and equipment online, while ensuring customer service staff are informed and trained in accessibility.

Public Works maintains and repairs recreation facilities in alignment with capital funding envelopes and the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). In 2023, the approved capital block budget for recreation facility renewal is \$7.3 M. This capital block is the only source of funding for infrastructure renewal projects, including accessibility upgrades and retrofits, and as such is only used to maintain the current accessibility features at facilities.

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**SUBJECT: Accessibility of City Operated Recreation Facilities (HSC23055) (City Wide) - Page 3 of 3**

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Public Works staff completed a report on September 11, 2018 (Report PW18064) detailing the overall accessibility of municipal facilities and the cost to fully upgrade all (including having at least one universal washroom, accessible common/program spaces, and accessible entrances). At that time, a consultant through their report DesignABLE estimated a funding gap of approximately \$157 M to upgrade all City facilities (subject to inflation).

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report ECS23055:      Accessibility Features and Ranking, By Facility