

Hello,

I would like to add my comments to the Parks & Rec Needs Assessment (AODA) update. Specifically on a set of motions added by Councilor Caton.

As a previous member of the Accessibility Advisory Committee as well as a past Chair on the AAC, I was part of multiple conversations around wanting to ensure all our playgrounds are/will be accessible for all. I work for the Rick Hansen Foundation as a Sr. Specialist for their Accessibility Certification program, as well as being an Adaptive Athlete working with event organizers to make their events as inclusive as possible.

People with disabilities account for 1 in 5, soon to be 1 in 4 of the population, that will have a wide range of needs and requirements. Removing barriers should be paramount to ensure everyone has equal/meaningful access to a space.

Coming from 8 years on the AAC, and my current role with the Rick Hansen Foundation having conversations with a wide variety of public, private and educational organizations all across the country around how to identify and then remove barriers. It has shown the need that detailed metrics are paramount to make key decisions based on captured data to ensure a high level of accessibility in a space and in this case 'playgrounds' will be achieved.

That these are long overdue improvements and having these motions included in the plan will steer us in the right direction for equity.

I am in favour of these motions and the recommendations that it includes.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Greer.