

Advisory Committee of Council Information Report



To Accessibility Advisory Committee
Date Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Subject **Seasonal Patio Program Follow Up**

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to the Accessibility Advisory Committee on the Seasonal Patio Program Guidelines and implementation of the program in the 2024 season.

Key Findings

- The Seasonal Patio Program Guidelines were updated to reflect the Council approved changes to the Seasonal Patio Program as well as the feedback provided by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- The Guidelines are currently in use for the 2024 season and the Accessibility Team continues to review applications for compliance.
- The Guidelines will continue to be monitored to reflect changes made to Federal, Provincial, and Municipal legislation.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Seasonal Patio Program contributes to goal of growing Guelph’s economy through the implementation of the [Economic Development and Tourism Strategy](#) as well as supporting action 11.1.3 as outlined in the [Future Guelph Strategic Plan \(2024-2027\)](#). There are also contributions made through the program to the objectives of making downtown a vibrant place for everyone and the City Building initiative to grow and care for our community spaces and places through investments made in placemaking, wayfinding, and partnered activations of public space.

Report

A long-term Seasonal Patio Program was approved at Council on July 25, 2023 to commence in 2024. As a result, the Seasonal Patio Program Guidelines came under review to ensure alignment with the goals of the program and to provide a detailed resource for patio operators. The Guidelines are meant to provide a central location for the built standards and operations of the temporary patios to ensure that patio operators follow the City’s Facility Accessibility Design Manual (FADM).

As a part of the development of these Guidelines, the Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted to ensure the Accessibility Checklist was still current and

to solicit the feedback of the Committee around ways that Tourism staff can better educate operators around accessibility challenges and opportunities for service improvement.

Thanks to the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Staff took the feedback and developed the guidelines to include both the Accessibility Checklist in an easy to use format and images to illustrate the expectations of the program.

Since consulting with the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the program launched with these updated Guidelines for the 2024 season and Accessibility Staff have received and reviewed a number of applications that do follow the guidelines.

Once applications have been approved and the patios are constructed, Accessibility Staff will participate in inspections alongside Bylaw Staff and provide feedback to operators on improvements to the patios to maintain compliance with the Guidelines. Users of the patios or members of the public that experience barriers to access are still able to provide feedback through the [Report a Problem Map](#) or can connect with staff through patios@guelph.ca.

The Guidelines will be reviewed annually to ensure compliance is maintained with Federal, Provincial, and Municipal regulations including but not limited to the Ontario Building Code (OBC), the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and the City of Guelph's Facility and Accessibility Design Manual (FADM). If any updates or changes are made to the above listed regulations and resources, the Guidelines will reflect changes accordingly. Following any update to the Guidelines, a report noting the changes made as well as how staff are communicating the changes with patio operators will be provided to the AAC.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Consultations

The Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted on 17 October, 2024 around the Seasonal Patio Program and the Accessibility Checklist that is included in the Seasonal Patio Program Guidelines for patio operators to use as a reference.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Guelph 2024 Seasonal Patio Program Guidelines

Departmental Approval

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This report was approved by:

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