Advisory Committee of Council Memo

Date	August 20, 2024
To	Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
From	Jean Starchuk
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development, and Environment (IDE)
Department	Facility and Energy Management
Subject	Update on accessibility renovations at Silvercreek Park

Purpose

Following the discussions from the December 19, 2023 AAC meeting, this memo serves to confirm the design details recommended by the committee. All but one recommendation will be included.

Memo message

We are pleased to present the enhancements and modifications that will be implemented following the valuable input from the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC). These changes reflect the City's commitment to inclusivity and safety, ensuring that City facilities cater to the needs of all community members. While staff embrace most of the AAC's recommendations, we also strive to balance practicality with innovation, as demonstrated in the approach to the proposed handwashing stations.

We invite you to review the outcomes or the committee's recommendations and thank you for your continued collaboration.

Washroom Modifications:

The committee recommended that individual washroom facilities be included, as well as an emergency call system in the Universal washroom, and an adult change table in the Universal washroom.

Staff are pleased to confirm that:

a) All toilet facilities are to be converted to single-use washrooms.
b) Both the Universal and Barrier Free washrooms will be equipped with an emergency call system, in compliance with the Ontario Building Code requirements. Further, a new security system is being installed, and staff are evaluating the integration with the emergency call system.
c) The Universal Washroom will include an adult change table.

Handwashing Stations:

The committee requested that an outdoor handwashing station be included in the design to permit handwashing without using a washroom and for germ control.

Staff considered the request for an external handwashing station; however, it was determined that while the four-season heated washroom building is a new and innovative approach for the City, maintaining such stations during colder months poses a maintenance challenge. Therefore, the design will not include an outdoor handwashing station at this time.

Pavilion Design:

The committee indicated that the existing long table that currently exists in the pavilion is desirable. Further, the committee also recommended that other integrated seating be available to provide options.

Staff are also able to confirm that:

The new pavilion will maintain the current design feature of one long table with accessible seating that the committee found to be desirable at the December meeting. The committee also mentioned that a more integrated seating arrangement could also benefit others and so accessible seating has been integrated into smaller standalone tables in the area near the pavilion.

In closing:

The City is excited to proceed with the construction of this innovative design concept for park washrooms. As mentioned during the December AAC meeting, the Universal washroom will be available throughout the year. Staff anticipates future discussions with the committee to gain insights into their experiences in accessing these modern washrooms.