



September 17, 2018

Essex Region Conservation Authority
Attention: Mr. Kevin Money, Director, Conservation Services
360 Fairview Avenue West, Suite 311
Essex, Ontario
N8M 1Y6

Dear Mr. Money,

Re: Holiday Beach Conservation Area – Accessibility Assessment and Review

On behalf of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee, I want to thank you for providing us the opportunity to tour the Holiday Beach Conservation Area, which allowed us to identify, at your request, some facilities and areas where accessibility could be improved.

The Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC) members did identify the following items for your consideration for greater accessibility improvements:

General Grounds/Parking Lots and Lanes

- Gravel Parking Lots and Trails – Gravel is not ideal for those with wheelchairs, especially large sized gravel. Ideally, we recommend replacing gravel surfaces with hard packed screenings or hard surfaces.
- Picnic Tables – Accessible picnic tables are suggested at all locations.
- Beach Access – Consider providing a [Mobi-Mat](#) or a hard trail surface for waterside access.
- Trails – Trails should meet the roadway, be wider in order to accommodate both a wheelchair and allow enough space for another person or vehicle pass.
- Boardwalk – Boardwalks should be widened for wheelchair access and allow enough space for another person to pass. A small handrail and floor edges are recommended to keep from going over the edge with wheelchair.

519-776-6441
TTY 1-877-624-4832

360 Fairview Ave. W.
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

countyofessex.on.ca

Camping Area Facility

Accessible Bathroom

- Install automatic door openers.
- Soap dispensers, sink, taps and towels or driers should be lowered to meet wheelchair access level.
- Toilet paper dispenser – Should be moved so that it is much closer to the toilet in the accessible bathroom.

Accessible Shower

- Install automatic door openers.
- Install a lower detachable showerhead and a bath bench in the shower itself.

Laundry Room

- Install automatic door openers.
- Consider installing front load laundry machines in order to replace the top loaders, to enable access for those who have mobility issues (e.g. those who have difficulty reaching up and in), also provide adequate space for wheelchairs to maneuver around the machines.

Facility General

- Wet Floors – Consider better ventilation to mitigate the moisture accumulation on the tile floors of the facilities.
- Consider installing an adult change table with a lift in universal/accessible washrooms.
- All new bathrooms should have a universal washroom.

Beach Bathroom Facility

- Install automatic door openers.
- Fold down bench – when it is down, entry into the bathroom is difficult. Consider relocating the bench further away from the door. Alternatively, a sign indicating that the bench should be stowed when exiting the bathroom may

also be a remedy. Those in wheelchairs or scooters would have difficulty getting through and may not have the capacity to stow it themselves to gain access.

- Accessible Shower – Install a lower, detachable showerhead and a bath bench in the shower itself.
- Toilet paper dispenser – Consider installing the dispenser much closer to the toilet in the accessible bathroom, perhaps installed right on the sidebars on either side of the toilet.
- The flusher is inaccessible for a seated person; we suggest installing an auto-flusher.
- Consider installing a track lift to get an adult on and off the toilet.
- Consider installing an adult change table with a lift.
- All new bathrooms should also have a universal washroom.
- Consider the use of sensor-activated soap dispensers.
- Consider the use of sensor-activated driers.

Rental Cottage

- Ramps are needed to get into the building.
- A sidewalk should be constructed from the parking lot to the ramp.
- Lower the fixtures in bathroom/shower, transfer bench installed in the bathtub, use of a portable commode for the toilet would all greatly improve accessibility.
- Kitchen fixtures are higher than ideal and should be lowered for those who have mobility issues.
- Lower the access to the light switches.
- Spaces are very narrow; consider widening hallway and spaces to accommodate wheelchair access (even for visitors).

The committee would recommend that adjustments, addressing these areas, be considered and implemented when appropriate. The ECAAC thanks you for the opportunity to provide input into your accessibility assessment review and we look forward to working with you again on your next project.

Should you require further information, or, if you wish to attend a meeting of the ECAAC please contact the Manager of Corporate Communications and Accessibility, Renée Trombley at rtrombley@countyofessex.on.ca or by phone at 519-776-6441 x 1330 to make necessary arrangements.

We eagerly anticipate accessibility improvements to this significant natural property in the County of Essex.

Regards,

Christine Easterbrook

Christine Easterbrook,
Chair, Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee

 519-776-6441
TTY 1-877-624-4832

 360 Fairview Ave. W.
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

 countyofessex.on.ca