

What is this plan about?

The City of Elliot Lake wants to make our community more accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities, older adults, families with young children, and visitors.

This **2026–2031 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan** explains what the City will work on over the next five years to remove barriers and make services, facilities, and programs easier to use.

Why accessibility matters

Accessible communities are:

- safer
- easier to move around
- more inclusive
- better for seniors and families
- better for local businesses
- required by law (AODA)

What we have already improved

Since 2020, Elliot Lake has:

- added beach mats and water wheelchairs
- improved playgrounds and park spaces
- upgraded accessible features at the pool
- improved transit planning
- added accessible mobility charging stations
- created sensory-friendly event spaces
- made advisory committee meetings viewable online
- expanded staff accessibility training

What still needs work

Some areas still need improvement, including:

- accessible parking and pathways
- fully accessible washrooms in parks
- clearer sidewalks, curb cuts, and crosswalks
- improved transit routes and bus stops
- more accessible communication and signage
- electronic auditing tools
- updating older facilities and playgrounds

What the City will work on (2026–2031)

Transportation

- Buy new, accessible buses
- Improve bus stops and shelters
- Review transit routes to better serve seniors and people with disabilities
- Plan for an on-demand transit system
- Improve specialized transit options

Parks, Trails & Public Spaces

- Upgrade park washrooms
- Improve pathways, curb cuts, and crosswalks
- Add accessible seating areas
- Upgrade playgrounds with inclusive equipment
- Improve accessibility at Westview Park, Kiwanis Park, Nordic Park, and ESAs
- Add accessible signage

City Buildings & Customer Service

- Improve service counters
- Create emergency plans for people with disabilities
- Expand autism and dementia-friendly training
- Support inclusive recreation programs
- Provide better information and training for staff

Information & Communication

- Ensure the City website meets accessibility standards
- Improve communication about temporary disruptions
- Add captioning and accessible formats for public events
- Improve documents posted to the website
- Offer clearer, simpler communication options

Employment

- Improve accommodation processes for staff
- Review job descriptions for barriers
- Provide inclusive hiring practices
- Offer training about disability awareness
- Create a disability Employee Resource Group

Policies & Planning

- Review the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan every year
- Continue accessibility audits and public consultations
- Embed accessibility into all major municipal projects

Together, we can build a more inclusive and accessible Elliot Lake.