Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet Accessibility Audit Project:

Key Themes and Recommendations

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Key Themes and Recommendations

Throughout our activities on this project, several overarching themes emerged. These themes are briefly described in the following table. Each is then explained in more detail in the next section, including references to specific sites and locations.

RM Policies and Practices

- The RM could benefit from more documentation of existing procedures and practices related to accessibility.

Website and Communications

- Add information about RM sites and resources to the website, including the location and accessibility information of parks, boat launches, and public washrooms.

- Add alt text to all images and graphics that are posted on the RM's website or sent by email.

- Share resources about alt text, what it is, and best practices for using it with any staff posting on the RM's website or sending email communications.

- Consider ways to make the website easier to navigate, including streamlining headings and page titles.

- Consider addressing specific barriers to accessibility that were identified in LTRT's digital accessibility audit.

Social Media

- Add alt text to all images and graphics that are posted on the RM's social media pages or add detailed captions.

- Share resources about alt text, what it is, and best practices for using it with any staff posting on the RM's social media pages.
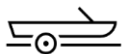
Public Offices and Spaces

- Ensure that building entrances have automatic door openers within safe reach of the door, and that the entrances are free of obstacles and tripping hazards.

- Update and maintain the paint in the parking lot, especially for the designated accessible parking spot. Consider adding line striping across the adjacent walkway to prevent people from parking there.

- Ensure that ramps and walkways are regularly maintained and free of tripping hazards.

- Ensure that emergency resources, like fire extinguishers and AEDs, are installed in locations and at heights that are accessible to all.

- Ensure that paths of travel in the building, including foyers and hallways, are clear of all obstacles.

- Consider adding visual components to emergency alarms in public spaces.

- When updating washrooms, consider updating hardware and fixtures to more accessible options.

- Consider using unscented or low-scent products in public spaces wherever possible, including soaps, lotions, and hand sanitizers.

- Provide additional resources and, if necessary, training for staff to feel confident in providing accessible customer service.

Transfer Stations

- Add the transfer station(s) to Google Maps.

- Staff at the transfer station are aware of potential barriers to accessibility and willing to help visitors who need accommodations. Provide additional resources and, if necessary, training for staff to feel confident in providing accessible customer service.

- Consider adding larger signage so that each area of the transfer stations can be identified from farther away.

- Consider adding a large sign near the entrance with a map of the areas of the transfer stations.

Boat Launches

- Provide a clear list and current map of boat launches across the RM on the RM's website, including information about accessibility.

- Ensure that all boat launches are added to Google Maps.

- Ensure that boat launches, including docks and ramps, are regularly maintained and clear of debris, vegetation, and tripping hazards.

- Where there are gaps between boards or blocks on ramps or docks, cover these to prevent tripping hazards. Where there are gaps between the ramps or docks and the ground, add transition ramps.

- Consider adding railings to walkways and docks where visitors could fall into the water.

- Consider adding accessible personal watercraft launches to one or more boat launches.

- Consider adding fishing pole holders at varied heights at one or more docks.

Public Washrooms

- Provide a list and map of public washrooms across the RM on the RM's website, including information about accessibility.

- Ensure that all public washrooms are added to Google Maps.

- Clearly label washroom facilities with high-contrast signage so that they can be identified from a distance.

- Consider painting the inside of washroom stalls white so that they reflect light and increase visibility.

- Ensure that all washrooms have appropriate fixtures like grab bars, toilet paper dispensers, and hand sanitizer dispensers, and that these are installed within safe reaching distance.

- Repair ramps, platforms, and paths leading to washrooms to ensure safe access by people using mobility aids and wheelchairs.

- Ensure that public washrooms are regularly maintained and repaired as needed to prevent obstacles arising due to wear and tear.

Trails

- Provide a list and map of RM-managed trails on the RM's website, including information about accessibility.

- Ensure that trailheads are added to Google Maps and AllTrails.

- Add clear and accessible signage to trailheads and trail junctions, as well as intermittently along long trails. Signage should indicate the trailhead and junction locations, length of the trail, trail surface material, and if the trail has elevation changes.

- Ensure that trails are regularly maintained and clear of tripping hazards and other obstacles.

Parks

- Provide a list and map of RM-managed parks on the RM's website, including information about amenities and accessibility.

- Ensure that all parks are added to Google Maps.

- Ensure there are clear, even, and well-packed paths between parking areas, picnic areas, and washrooms. Picnic areas and washrooms should be located on flat, well-packed surfaces.

- Avoid placing barriers, decorations, or other objects close to picnic tables or benches that could create tripping or collision hazards.

- Ensure that picnic tables and benches are maintained and repaired as necessary.

- When replacing or purchasing new picnic tables and benches, consider more accessible alternatives.

- Consider opportunities to provide shade by strategically planting trees or adding gazebo structures.

Cemeteries

- Ensure safe, designated areas are available for parking.

- Ensure clear paths of travel from parking areas through the main areas of each cemetery.

- Consider adding trees along paths of travel to provide shade.

- Consider adding benches along paths of travel, especially in cemeteries with longer paths from parking areas.

Recreation and Programming

- Explore options for a new registration portal.

Roadways and Sidewalks

- Consider how major roadways in the RM can be made safer for people travelling by foot, bicycle, or wheelchair. Depending on the area, this could include maintaining and repairing road surfaces, developing walking paths or sidewalks alongside roadways, adding crosswalks, or adding or maintaining lighting.

Supporting Accessibility in the RM's Communities

- Share helpful tips and resources about accessibility on the RM's website and social media pages.

- Consider ways to support local businesses to improve accessibility. This could include encouraging businesses to meet accessibility sharing information about resources and grants, providing funding for accessibility initiatives, or collaborating on initiatives.

- Consider collaborating with neighbouring communities, including the Town of Lac du Bonnet, to share resources about accessibility.