



ACCESSIBILITY PLAN

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Introduction

a. About the Village of New Denver

The Village of New Denver is a small municipality with approx. 560 full time residents, which swells in the summer with seasonal residents. New Denver sits on the eastern shore of Slocan Lake and is surrounded by the Selkirk Mountain range. World class outdoor amenities are a defining feature of the area and are enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike, including Slocan Lake and its beaches, area parks, and hiking, biking, and ski trails.

Founded in 1892 and incorporated in 1929, the Village has a dynamic history, including a mining boom in its founding days, a Japanese Canadian internment camp in the 1940s, and a residential facility for Doukhobor children in the 1950s. Following mining and forestry economic ups and downs, the village is now a small, vibrant community with a diverse population.

New Denver is fully serviced including a kindergarten to grade 12 public school, a dedicated multi-age childcare centre, preschool, health care centre, Ambulance and RCMP station, post office, liquor store, pharmacy, credit union, insurance agency, gas stations, grocery stores, and more. New Denver serves as a hub for the surrounding communities in the North Slocan region.

New Denver is a volunteer-oriented and engaged community, with a number of non-profit organizations in operation. Local organizations are engaged in initiatives such as advocating for food security, promoting arts and culture, providing care and support to older adults, and the building and preservation of trails.

b. Our Accessibility Story

The Village of New Denver has been taking steps towards creating a more inclusive environment in regards to our facilities and services including installation of automatic doors and accessible washrooms at the Village Office and Knox Hall. We have been including accessibility goals in any new master planning like the Centennial Park Master Plan, Active Transportation Network Plan and the Downtown Revitalization Plan

The Village acknowledges we have a long way to go in order to reach goals and meet priorities identified in this Plan, but are committed to working towards achieving equitable accessibility for Village services, programs and facilities.

c. Message from the Mayor

The Village of New Denver takes great pride in being a welcoming and inclusive community, dedicated to supporting and including all of its members and visitors alike. We believe that every person, regardless of ability, deserves equitable access to Village services and amenities. The Village remains committed to achieving this goal through thoughtful projects and collaborations that reflect our local context, resources, and capacity. Thank you to the Committee for their work to create this document and for their ongoing commitment to improving accessibility in New Denver.

d. Message from Accessibility Advisory Committee

New Denver's Accessibility Advisory Committee is comprised of local disability advocates, with diverse and extensive disability related backgrounds. Committee members recommend the adoption of practical approaches that support diversity, inclusion and equity for all. The committee strongly endorses the clear values, principles and approaches that ground the work of BC's Social Planning and Resource Council (SPARC BC).

e. Acknowledgement of Key Contributors

- SPARC BC
- Kimberly Joines - Disability Consultant
- Village of New Denver Staff
- Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Residents of New Denver and surrounding communities

f. Territorial Acknowledgement

The Village of New Denver, home of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre, would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Sinixt and by ancestral ties the Ktunaxa, Syilx, and Secwepemc people and is home to Métis and many diverse Aboriginal persons whose historical relationship with the land continues today. We honour their connection to the land, mountains, and rivers and respect the importance of the environment to our strength as a community.

g. Acronyms

AP	Village of New Denver Accessibility Plan
ABCA	Accessible British Columbia Act
ACA	Accessible Canada Act
AAC	Accessibility Advisory Committee, Village of New Denver
ASL	American Sign Language
B.C.	British Columbia
BCBC	British Columbia Building Code
CSA	Canadian Standards Association
OCP	Official Community Plan, Village of New Denver
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
VoND	Village of New Denver
SPARC BC	Social Planning and Resource Council. BC

h. Definitions

Accessibility	Having programs, services and environments that enable everyone to participate fully in society without barriers
Barriers	Anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment
Disability	An impairment whether permanent, temporary, or episodic in nature, whether evident or not
Impairment	The loss or abnormality of a body function that can be anatomical, physiological, or psychological

Framework Guiding our Work

A. Accessible British Columbia Act

The Accessible British Columbia Act (ABCA) received royal assent on June 17, 2021 and on, April 14, 2022, the government filed the Accessible British Columbia Regulation (B.C. Regulation) providing clarity to the types of organizations that will be subject to accessibility requirements under the B.C. Act. It provides a framework to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility.

Under the law, all local governments are required to create an accessibility plan to identify, remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the Village.

The Accessibility Plan for the Village of New Denver will describe the action taken – past, present and proposed – to identify, remove and prevent barriers in the facilities and services offered by the Village. The Village of New Denver is committed to providing its residents with accessible facilities and services

The Village must review and update its accessibility plan at least once every 3 years.

In developing and updating its accessibility plan, the Village and the Accessibility Committee must consider the following principles:

- (a) inclusion;
- (b) adaptability;
- (c) collaboration;
- (d) self-determination;
- (e) universal design.

b. Other Legislation

British Columbia Building Code.

The British Columbia Building Code (BCBC) provides the minimum requirements for a safely built environment; this includes accessibility. Typically, the accessibility requirements apply to

the public areas of a building and to washroom facilities that are reachable at ground level or by an elevating device. The BCBC has been harmonized with the NBC. It also references about 60% of the CSA B651.

The Building Accessibility Handbook 2020 provides detailed standards and illustrations to help apply accessibility requirements in housing. There is no legislative requirements to follow the handbook. Also, there are no handbook targets for accessible and adaptable housing units. It is incumbent on each municipal government to set the number and type of accessible and adaptable housing units needed within their communities. This is also true for accessible parking provisions. As of 2018, accessible parking standards, including the ratios and locations, became the responsibility of local governments to implement through municipal bylaws.

c. Existing Village Policies

The Village of New Denver does not currently have any policies that support or promote accessibility to facilities or services.

d. Internal Values, Service Commitment or Vision Statement

Equitable access to community life and participation in our community are important for everyone, regardless of age or ability. Further, it is important that our community is inclusive and as barrier-free as possible, so that everyone can participate with dignity and independence.

e. Barriers to Accessibility

ABCA defines a barrier as: anything that hinders the full and equal participation in society of a person with an impairment. Barriers can be caused by environments, attitudes, practices, policies, information, communications or technologies, and affected by intersecting forms of discrimination.

Barriers exist in various forms. In developing this Plan, the Village has considered the functional limitations associated with several different kinds of disability and the effects of these limitations on an individual's ability to perform everyday tasks:

- Physical Impairment
- Hearing Loss
- Speech Loss
- Vision Loss
- Deaf-blind
- Smell
- Touch
- Intellectual
- Mental Health

- Learning
- Other – resulting from accidents, illnesses, and disease

*** See Appendix A: Barrier Examples**

f. Our Approach

The Village has established an Accessibility Committee and created Terms of Reference to guide the work of committee members. The Village has advertised for committee members and created a draft plan. The plan has been posted to the Village's website and is open for community feedback. The Accessibility Committee will review the plan and any comments on the plan that are submitted to the Village, make suggestions for additions and improvements, and present revisions to Council for consideration.

About our Committee

Section 9 of Part 3 of the Accessible BC Act states that

- An organization must establish a committee to
 - assist the organization to identify barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization, and
 - advise the organization on how to remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.
- An accessibility committee must, to the extent possible, have members who are selected in accordance with the following goals:
 - at least half of the members are
 - persons with disabilities, or
 - individuals who support, or are from organizations that support, persons with disabilities;
 - the members described in paragraph (a) reflect the diversity of persons with disabilities in British Columbia;
 - at least one of the members is an Indigenous person;
 - the committee reflects the diversity of persons in British Columbia.

a. Initial Focus of Committee

As outlined in the Accessibility Committee Terms of Reference, the committee will have these primary functions:

- Advise Council and staff on:
 - matters relating to the identification, removal and prevention of barriers that staff and community members experience or may experience in the course of interacting with the Village of New Denver.

- matters that promote diversity, equity and inclusion within existing and proposed Village plans, policies, bylaws and services to ensure the fostering of a welcome and inclusive village.
- Review the development of terms of reference and subsequent draft organizational accessibility plan and make recommendations in support of the creation of a mechanism for the Village to receive public feedback on accessibility in accordance with the *Accessible British Columbia Act*.
- Make recommendations to Council that support the implementation of the Village of New Denver Accessibility Plan.
- Promote effective methods of communication and outreach to the broader community on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility matters.
- Invite community groups to present and dialogue at committee meetings and encourage groups to engage with the Village in its ongoing planning process to allow New Denver to achieve a greater understanding of the strengths and needs of residents of diverse backgrounds and abilities.
- Provide an opportunity for community groups to present information on diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility through delegations.

b. Recruitment

The Village advertised on its website and in the local newspaper that it was establishing an Accessibility Advisory Committee, the reason for the committee, the required composition of the committee and how to apply to be appointed to the committee. The also sent several specific targeted emails to known organizations who fit within the criteria of supporting people with disabilities.

Organizations invited included: KASA (Kootenay Adaptive Sport Association), ASLCA (Arrow Slocan Lakes Community Services), Bluebirds Volunteers, Goat Mountain Kids, and Lucerne School.

The Village size and demographics posed recruitment challenges. Applications were reviewed and considered for diversity of age, nature of disability, and relevant background and experience.

Committee membership reflected diversity of background and disability experience. The Village was unsuccessful in recruiting indigenous representation. We will continue our recruiting efforts, with additional committee members being appointed as appropriate.

c. Committee Members and Background

Susan Dunnigan

Retired social worker, inclusion advocate and author, who lives with a progressive neurodegenerative condition. Extensive, broad based professional experience providing disability related services- direct support, service delivery and policy development. Parent of adult son with complex disability challenges.

Kathy Hartman

Masters in Special Needs Education. Extensive experience working collaboratively with youth and young adults with disabilities and the systems that support them. Advocate for positive transitional planning that supports individuals with diverse diagnoses and a wide spectrum of challenges.

Linny Lamarche

Career care aid in extended care settings, prior to personally living with disability. Significant mobility challenges resulted in 20 years of wheelchair reliance, until recently. Exemplifies how fierce independence, curiosity and daring can open doors of possibility and engagement.

Casey Law

Paramedic, current village councillor and support person for an immediate family member with a multi-faceted disability. Paramedic and family experiences deepened understanding of how acute and chronic health issues can impact independence, accessibility and community engagement.

Kevin Murphy

Retired teacher, former village councillor and advocate of community access for all. Understanding of accessibility issues faced by citizens has been heightened by personal experience. Living with advanced Parkinson's Disease and determined to commune with nature has fine-tuned awareness of accessibility challenges, opportunities and risks.

* Kevin subsequently resigned for personal reasons.

Indigenous Representation- Vacant Position

Recruitment efforts for this position included: postings in local newspaper, online at VoND website, through informal community inquiries and at Council table. * Despite these combined efforts, no applications were received.

Consultation Conducted

a. Consultations to Date

Feedback summaries from the following consultations are attached in Appendices.

Appendix B. Initial review by internal Village staff (August 23, 2023)

Included Planning, Community Services, Accounting, Administration and Public Works input

Appendix C Community Open House: Conversations that Matter (January 24, 2024)

Funded by SPARC BC grant

Appendix D Community Walkabout with Kimberly Joines, Disability Consultant, (February 5, 2024)

These insights were later reinforced by Linny Lamarche, and Barbara Ann-Wejr, residents with lived disabilities

Appendix E Accessibility Survey Results - New Denver and Area Residents (June 10-July 2, 2024)

This focused community feedback reinforced earlier themes identified through other processes.

b. Key Themes Arising from Consultations

- Safe Streets and Sidewalks
- Access to Trails and Nature
- Parking Challenges
- Building Accessibility

c. What the Committee Heard

Input from staff, consultants, and community identified congruence of core issues.

Consultation summaries from all feedback loops are attached in Appendices.

- B. Internal Staff Review, August 23, 2023
- C. Open House: Conversations that Matter, January 24, 2024
- D. Disability Consultant Insights, February 7, 2024
- E. Executive Summary – Accessibility Survey
- F. Accessibility Survey Results June 10 to July 2, 2024

d. Actions Taken

The Committee provided input to the Draft Accessibility Plan and made recommendations for Council's consideration.

Our 3 Year Plan

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that VoND Council consider the following, within the larger context of long-range planning, jurisdictional considerations and funding realities.

a. Priority #1

Apply to SPARC BC's Local Community Accessibility Grant Program, for up to \$25,000 towards improving inclusive community access.

Action	Details	Timeline
Staff apply to SPARC BC Grant	https://www.sparc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/L-CAG-Program-Overview-V2.pdf	Grant period: June 2023 to March 2026

b. Priority #2

Explore opportunities for expanding accessible parking options that support community feedback received and master plan initiatives.

c. Priority #3

Identify mechanisms to engage interested advocates for continued accessibility consultation purposes.

Monitoring and Evaluation

a. Monitoring

Village staff will review feedback, comments and complaints, referring to the Accessibility Committee as needed. Additional barriers may be identified, and further recommendations will be made to Council. Village policies, bylaws, programs and services will continue to be reviewed, monitored and added.

b. Evaluating

The Village and Accessibility Committee will conduct a review and evaluation of the Accessibility Plan every three years from adoption. The plan will be updated as required, with the most current version available on our website.

c. Feedback Processes

The ABCA requires that a process must be established for receiving comments from the public on the organization's accessibility plan and barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization.

The Village of New Denver welcomes feedback on our Accessibility Plan. Feedback will help us identify barriers and response to concerns.

The draft plan is available on the Village website www.newdenver.ca, or printed copies can be obtained from the Village office.

All feedback, including complaints will be reviewed by the CAO, who may refer the matter to the Accessibility Advisory Committee. Anyone providing feedback/complaints can expect a response from the CAO within 10 business days.

You can provide feedback on the Village of New Denver's Accessibility Plan in person, by phone, mail or email.

Conclusion

The Village of New Denver is committed to recognizing the diverse range of disabilities and focusing on the identification, removal and prevention of barriers to persons with disabilities.

We acknowledge this is a living document and the actions and priorities identified may change from time to time.

We thank all those who have participated or contributed to this process and we will continue to engage our community as we work towards achieving equitable access to all citizens.

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Appendix A: Barrier Examples

Some barriers and example illustrating the barrier that follows:

Architectural Barriers:

- Includes building design, shape and dimensions of rooms, width of doorways, stairways, inaccessible bathrooms.

Attitudinal Barriers:

- Inaccurate beliefs or perceptions about a person's ability;
- Someone who is abrupt, insensitive, impatient and uncomfortable with people slowed by a physical, language or developmental disability;

Communication Barriers:

- The process of providing or sending, or receiving information such as difficulties receiving information in person or by telephone;
- Someone who speaks too quickly or unclearly;
- Use of language that is not understandable such as the use of complex words or jargon.

Information Barriers:

- Information is not available in an accessible format – large print, audio video, plain language, Braille, closed captioned video or computer diskette;
- Inadequate or incomprehensible signage – font, size, colour, location, or faded.

Physical Barriers:

- Additions to an interior or exterior environment such as manual doors, unreachable windows, furniture, planters, hardware, non-accessible recreational or playground equipment, lighting, signage, use of colour, materials, etc.

Systemic Barriers (Policies, procedures and practices):

- Occur when practices or policies restrict participation. Often done unintentionally;
- Needing to fill out a (complex) form to get a service & not being able to because of a disability.

Technological Barriers:

- When a technology cannot be modified to support various assistive devices;
- Lack of visual alarms;
- Lack of TTY machines;
- Website is not accessible – no colour contrast or large print options, screen reader, cluttered appearance, difficult to navigate.

Appendix B - Internal Staff Review

Facility/Service	Details
Village Office - Access	Handrails on stairs, low slope access, automatic doors, lowered sections of front counter.
Village Office – Notices / Information	Information can be provided in writing for those with hearing disabilities, information can be provided in larger font/format if requested.
Knox Hall – Access	Ramps, automatic doors, accessible washrooms.
Reading Centre – Access	Low grade slope to doors, automatic doors.
Reading Centre – Tech Centre	Is wheelchair accessible, font on screens can be made larger.
Silvery Slocan Museum	Has ramps for access, partially accessible washroom, railings on stairs and lift to second floor.
NIMC	Garden is accessible, office/gift shop are accessible, washroom in gift shop is accessible, K Hall is accessible, currently working on new signage, archives is accessible.
Centennial Park	Most bathrooms are mostly accessible, boat launch docks repaired.
All Wheels Park	Paved for ease of use for most users.
Greer Park	There are benches for resting.
Roads	Dust control on unpaved roads.
Sidewalks & Trails	Letdowns on sidewalks on main street, regular snow removal, Bobcat for improved snow removal.
Obon Ceremony	Accessibility friendly.

Areas for Improvement

Facilities

Village Office	
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Acoustics	Install sound panels.
Signage	Larger, easier to read signage.
Council Chambers	Install automatic doors, remove materials from entranceway.
Fire Hall	Although not typically open to the public, the training room is not accessible and could limit access for trainers, consultants, etc.

Bosun Hall	
Stage	Build ramp or install lift, also install handrails on stairs.
Kitchen	Lower counters.
Entrance	Install automatic doors.
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Knox Hall	
Kitchen	too small to make wheelchair accessible.
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Signage	Research braille, audio or types of signage including for things like thermostat instructions or cleaning instructions.
Reading Centre	
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Aisles / Shelves	Too narrow or high, maybe signage for assistance if needed.
Silvery Slocan Museum	
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Signage	Larger, braille, audio versions.
Greer Park	
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Picnic Tables	Install wheelchair friendly picnic tables.
NIMC	
Centennial Hall	No railing on ramp, bathroom door too narrow, lip on front door.
'42 and '57 shacks	Not accessible, maybe some of interactive video options on outside of shacks.
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Signage	Possibly larger, braille, audio versions.
Fees	Consider solutions for those with financial disabilities.
Centennial Park	
Merry-go-Round Gazebo	To be demolished.
EV Charging Stations	Smoother, flatter parking surfaces needed.
Campsites	Possibly designate specific campsites with increased accessibility like proximity to washrooms, wheelchair friendly tables, improved trails or

	paths, etc., improved trails and paths within campground, improved signage.
Lake Access	Develop right side of boat launch for accessible water access, purchase mats for seasonal wheelchair access to water.
Bathrooms	Increase accessibility in all bathrooms including automatic doors, lower counters, etc.
Field Area	remove/reduce tripping hazards.
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Signage	Improve signage, larger, braille, audio, etc.
Playground	Add accessible playground equipment, consider replacing pea gravel with rubber matting.
Kohan Garden	
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Paths	Improvements to paths.
All Wheels Park	
Parking	Identify parking for PWD.
Access	Create accessibility friendly trails from parking area to track.
Other Amenities	Install wheelchair friendly picnic tables.
Cemetery	
Access	Improved access to the Upper Cemetery.
Signage	Improved signage.
Vault Toilets	
Doors	Can be hard for someone in a wheelchair to open/close.

Services

Sidewalks & Trails Maintenance	Trails along either side of the creek cannot access bridge crossing if in a wheelchair/stroller. Improve trails as per ATNP. Identify priority trails and sidewalks. Install lighting.
Roads	Install signage for crosswalks, install parking/no parking signs.
Garbage Collection	Large bins can be hard for PWD to use.
Website	Try to make more user friendly, improve visual disability friendliness, consider audio options.
Snow Removal	Improve and clarify policy for sanding and driveway clearing.

ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITIES:

Conversations that Matter



Event Report
January 24, 2024

Accessible Communities: Conversations That Matter

On January 24, 2024, the Village of New Denver's Accessibility Advisory Committee hosted an afternoon open house, called *Accessible Communities: Conversations That Matter*. The goal was to increase community awareness of broad accessibility issues and stimulate conversation about enhancing accessibility measures in our community.

Held at Knox Hall, the event was funded by a \$500 SPARC-BC AccessAbility grant awarded to the Village of New Denver. Grant funding covered advertising in the Valley Voice newspaper (\$144.38), hall rental (\$78.75), display supplies (\$102.49), graphic design honorarium (\$125.00), door prize gift card (\$25.00) and refreshments (\$26.77). Payments of event related expenses totalling \$502.39 were processed by the Village of New Denver (VOND).

Committee members hosted tables, facilitating discussion with community members about:

Accessible parking matters: awareness, permit issues, common challenges and resources

VOND accessibility initiatives: existing, planned and possible

Disability Considerations: community barriers and ideas to improve community access

Real life experiences: snacks, conversations and opportunity to experience using mobility aids

Conversations elicited comments about improving New Denver's accessibility:

- designated parking spaces, e.g. post office, credit union, pharmacy, Kohan Garden, and school
- curb cut in front of the pharmacy
- accessible path to beach and quiet spots, near the Kohan and other natural beauty spots
- improve dog friendly area access, e.g. flat ground, plow in winter, railings, garbage can
- remove driftwood along Mori Trail to improve access and reduce risks
- Knox Hall specific: make ramp easier to navigate, remove barriers to reaching automatic door switches- e.g. sand boxes and overly high Handicapped Accessibility master switch

Twelve members of the community attended and contributed to discussions. Seven participants provided written feedback:

A) Quiz about Accessible Parking Permit Facts, Myths, and Challenges: (True/False/Unknown)

- Participants chose correct responses to approximately 80% of the 9 questions

B) Learned Something New About:

- Accessible Parking Issues: Yes- 4, No- 3
- VOND Accessibility Initiatives and Planning: Yes-7, No-0
- Accessibility Challenges People Encounter Yes- 4, No- 3

C) Future Community Survey- preferred option:

- Online Survey 7
- Paper Survey 0
- In-Person interview 0

D) Additional Written Comments from Participants:

- *"Please make a path from the Pavilion; that is accessible; has shade and places to sit down to rest for wheelchair pushers and those using a walker."*
- *"I'd suggest a drop off zone at halls as there are quite a few people with handicap tags... (vying for one designated spot). But if one could drop off their wheelchair person and go park elsewhere, it would allow for more folks in wheelchairs to attend these events."*
- *"Not so many designate accessible parking, but some drop off spots."*
- *"Don't forget – We are all TABs- Temporarily Able Bodied."*
- *"Appreciate the work you are doing. Thank you."*
- *"Good work! Let me know if I can help."*

Report submitted by Susan Dunnigan

Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

Appendix D

Lived Experience Feedback on New Denver's Accessibility Realities February 2024

Kimberly Joines insights:

Kimberly Joines is a former Canadian Paralympian who advocates universally accessible design and consults on public sector site accessibility. She has provided accessibility consultation for a number of regional sites and organizations, including but not limited to: Columbia Basic Trust (CBT), TransCanada Trail, BC Parks, Kaslo Jazz Fest, Rick Hansen Foundation, Rossland Museum & Discovery Center, Jubilee Wetlands (Rossland), and Snk' mip Sanctuary.

Kimberly lives in Rosebery and has kindly volunteered to be a resource to the VOND Accessibility Advisory Committee. Kimberly has a wealth of experience as a disability consultant. The following is a synopsis of insights she shared with AAC committee chair, Susan Dunnigan on their tour of New Denver on February 7, 2024.

Kimberly's Observations:

Kudos:

Main intersection- well marked curb cuts

Post office ramp's user friendly – no risk of slippage. (Much better than Knox Hall's cement ramp)

Garbage can by post office is recessed lower than sidewalk which makes for easy access

Some nice ramps and access points to resources – Knox Hall, church, Sanderella's, post office

Challenging spots:

No designated parking spaces on main street

Broken cement, uneven surface and dips at corner by Hub

Wide cracks in sidewalk by Apple Tree

Street corners lack curb cuts to cross both directions

Big drop and broken cement by AppleTree

Sidewalk by museum is very high and railing limited. Dangerous if balance or vision impaired

Most garbage can lids are hard to reach and lift

Grades on both sides of bridge too steep for wheelchair access

Kohan Garden entrance has a steep grade that could be amended fairly readily

Centennial Park:

- playground has raised border and wood chips so no wheelchair access
- No accessible play structures
- Road behind the gazebo badly broken pavement
- No wheelchair accessible picnic tables

General Observations:

If not paved, type of gravel should be compacted and not easily picked up

e.g., Apple Tree patio gravel is large and loose, charging station is sand

Carpenter Creek path accessible, but narrow

Steep short ramp to get on bridge heading south

Potential First Steps to Consider:

Lower dog poop bags on poles for ease of access

Provide signage with symbols and arrows pointing to accessible lake access

Explore the feasibility of using remaining Knox Hall funds to upgrade the quality of ramp surface

Additional Input:

Long term New Denver residents Linny Lamarche and Barbara James have years of experience navigating our community in wheelchairs. Their February 20, 2024 walk around New Denver reinforced Kimberly Joines' observations about broken pavement, limited curb cuts, high sidewalk without a railing and lack of designated handicapped parking spaces.

Appendix E

Executive Summary

Village of New Denver Accessibility Survey: June 10 – July 2, 2024

Survey Processes:

New Denver and area residents were informed about the survey's purpose, timeframe and submission options through Valley Voice articles, posters, mailbox inserts and VoND website. Options for survey completion were online, paper copy or upon request in person assistance, with help from a committee member.

Demographics:

A total of 41 individuals submitted surveys, which is about 10% of the population. The majority of respondents chose to submit online, a few chose paper copies, and 1 in-person interview.

All respondents identified as fulltime residents of either New Denver (75.6%) or surrounding area (24.4%). The breakdown by respondent age was 65+ (62.5%), 45-64 (30%) and 25-44 (7.5%).

Most respondents self-identified as being a concerned citizen (68.3%). Others identified as supporting someone with disabilities (24.4%). The smallest group identified as having a disability (9.8%).

Key Themes Identified:

Mobility challenges impeding community access dominated feedback. Comments were plentiful related to Improving sidewalks and access to nature. Feedback was captured in the broad categories of 1) Safe streets and sidewalks, 2) Access to trails and nature, 3) Parking Challenges, and 4) Building Accessibility.

Findings by Category:

Streets and Sidewalks

Do the streets and sidewalks in the Village allow safe use for your preferred method(s) of active transportation? Yes = 67.5% No = 32.5%

Received the 2nd highest written responses (13) about streets or sidewalks considered dangerous and/or difficult to maneuver. The need for sidewalk repair was a key theme, particularly in downtown core.

Trails

Are there any improvements that are needed to make the Village trails and lake access more accessible?

Yes = 72.5% No = 27.5%

Trails received the most written suggestions (27). *Examples:* Widen trails with firmly packed surfaces, adjust steep grades, replace unstable stairs and add a handrail at the foot of main street, more places to sit, etc.

Access to Nature

Graph illustrated priorities, rated highest-lowest: 1. Attention to wheelchair grades; 2/3. Accessible trails lakeside and along Carpenter Creek; 4. Accessible seating in scenic spots; 5. Large print signage and alternate forms of print communication.

Parking

Parking perspectives and priorities were clear and often divergent. This observation mirrored earlier AAC Committee experiences when seeking community feedback. Residents often expressed a strong preference for one type of parking over another.

Survey questions categorized parking by type. Graphs identified highest to lowest priorities for *designated accessible parking (aka placard required)* as: 1. Pharmacy; 2. Post Office; 3. Knox Hall; 4. Bosun Hall and Centennial Park beach; 5. KSCU, Reading Room, Kohan Garden. Village Office and Centennial Park Playground.

Graphs in order of priority where people wanted to see *Drop Off parking (aka 15-minute zones)* rated highest to lowest: 1. Knox and Bosun Halls; 2. Pharmacy; 3. Post Office; 4. Credit Union; Nikkei and Centennial Park playground; 5. Village office, Library, and Centennial Park beach.

Building Accessibility

Graphs graphically depicted respondent priorities for strengthening building accessing. Improving ramp access was the clear leader. Priority areas were identified as: 1. Entry ramps; 2. Automatic entry doors; 3. Accessible parking stalls; 4. Improved outdoor signage; and 5. Non-commercial loading and drop off zones.

Site Specific:

Through a series of optional questions, the survey presented considerations from previous input and invited input. Comments received reinforced messages heard from earlier community consultations.

Feedback related to specific sites: Bosun and Knox Halls. Silvery Slocan Museum and New Denver Information Centre, VoND office. Greer Park, North Slocan Community Library, Centennial Park and campground, Carpenter Creek bridge, All Wheels/Dog Park.

Jurisdictional Issues:

Feedback included suggestions that fall under the purview of other jurisdictional authorities, yet directly impact accessibility for residents. These comments are valuable for VoND, given that their working relationships with authorities, such as Interior Health, RDCK, Highways and others. Specific comments related to the Carpenter Creek bridge, Pavilion. Gym and Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre.

Information Source:

This Executive Summary condenses survey response data compiled by VoND's Community Planner, Jessica Rayner. The report, *New Denver Accessibility Survey Responses* provides more specific information that may be of interest to Council.

Susan Dunnigan, Chair

On behalf of Accessibility Advisory Committee

Appendix F

New Denver Accessibility Survey Responses

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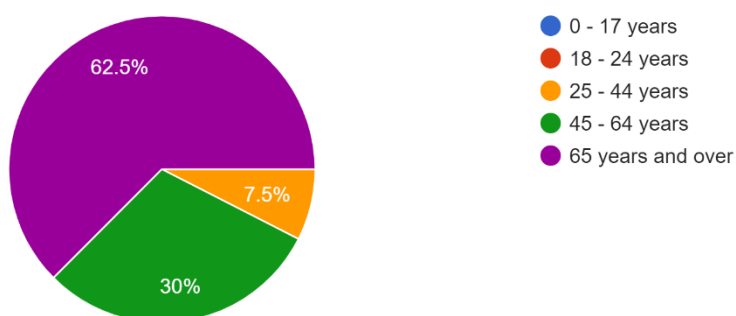
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Demographics

Age

Age

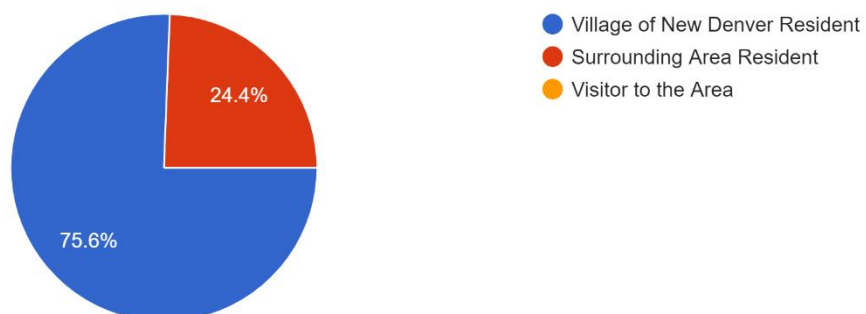
40 responses



Residency

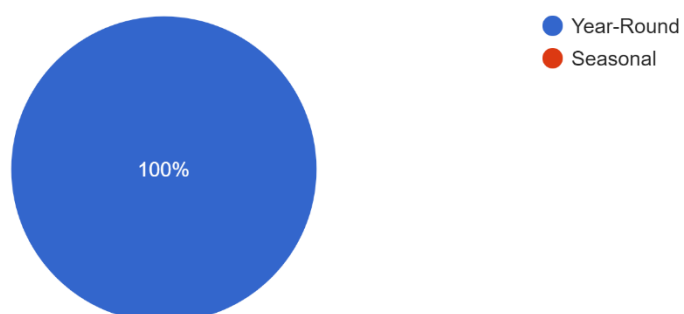
Residency

41 responses



Village of New Denver Seasonal vs. Year-Round

31 responses



Surrounding Area Resident Seasonal vs. Year-Round

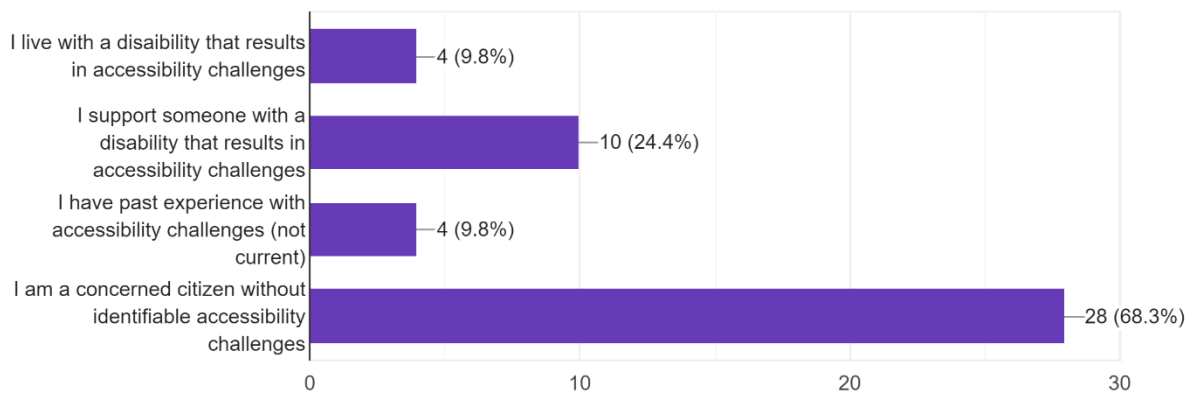
10 responses



Disability & Access

Please select all of the following that apply to you:

41 responses

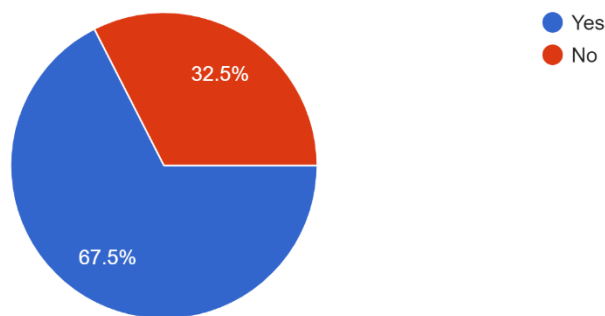


Connectivity

Streets and Sidewalks

Do the streets and sidewalks in the Village of New Denver allow safe use of your preferred method(s) of active transportation?

40 responses



If you answered 'No' above, what is restricting use of active transportation in New Denver for you or those you care for?

13 responses

Continuous sidewalks along the full length of the highway (Union Street) from the north to south end of town would make me feel safer.

Sidewalk pavement not connecting with street pavement. Sidewalk pavement cracked and uneven in some places. Plants, bushes & trees on private property overgrowing and in some cases partially blocking sidewalks. Sidewalks not cleared of snow and ice in winter.

Along Union street and crossing Union Street from the 11 avenue to 7th avenue, Along Union Street from Slocan street to Galena street. I do not feel safe walking along the street or crossing the street especially at 8th avenue and where the trail crosses at the north end of the bridge and crossing at 10 th avenue

I don't know exact sidewalks, but some of the sidewalks in ND have bumps that don't work well for walkers and wheelchairs. You can't take a wheelchair into the Kohan Garden and going into Centennial Park is not easy for wheelchairs and walkers. We should have a smooth walkway from the Pavilion to the park and lake.

Some sidewalks need repair. Eg. uneven section of sidewalk just south of Bosun Hall. Some streets don't have sidewalks.

Entrance/exit to creekside trail e of hwy 6 is unsafe for a bicycle, (one serious accident so far),. 2. Heavy sand placed on creekside trail, e of hwy is very difficult to walk on or cycle. 3. Storm debris - gravel, branches, and deep puddles, left on roadways require cyclists and pedestrians to travel with motor traffic and make cycle turns dangerous on corners. Especially Hwy 6 hwy 31A junction, and hill on hwy 6 at Kolmel residence. 4. Unposted speed limits north of bridge allow for motorized traffic to travel at speeds unsuitable for residential areas with children playing.

Walking or using a mobility scooter on Highway 31A from the village up to Denver Siding Road is very dangerous

The sidewalk alongside the museum is very rough & uneven, making it difficult for walkers & people in wheelchairs

-Some sidewalks need repairing. -Sidewalk pavement does not connect to street pavement. -Some sidewalks, especially on 6th Ave, need repairs. -Proper pedestrian access is needed from Slocan Ave - Hwy 6 to the Health Centre. -Alternate pedestrian access from Centennial Park to Village Office (walking bridge)

More sidewalks needed and better connections to street pavement needed

No sidewalks in my neighborhood. Broken sidewalks are dangerous.

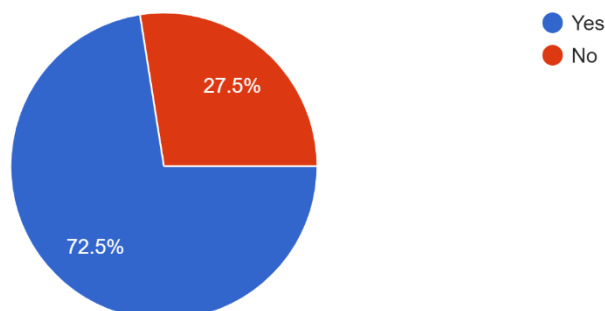
Streets and sidewalks are icy in the winter time... when there is snow and ice, due to lack of snow clearing on weekends and holidays.

-Broken-up pavement -Streets without sidewalks generally

Trails

Are there any improvements that are needed to make Village trails and lakes accesses in New Denver more accessible to you and/or those you care for?

40 responses



If you answered 'Yes' above, what are the most important improvements to be made to trails in New Denver?

27 responses

improve trail access from the foot of main street by replaing unstable stairs and including a handrail. Put signage by Becker Lane indicating a path for people in wheelchairs to access the beach

A hand railing from street level to beach level at Slocan Ave, the same along the hospital beach area would be great - just east of the Kohan or at the Kohan. Oh! And a hand railing at the gym would be really fantastic. It's a barrier to entry for my mom.

The ramps off the highway down to trails that parallel carpenter creek are not wheel chair accessible

create wide paths for ease of lakeside access for people with mobility challenges, ensuring firmly packed and easy to navigate, without necessarily being paved. Upgrade existing unstable stairs at foot of main street and improve safety by adding a handrail

Ramps leading down to the parks on each side of the river. Have a paved walkway through Centennial Park to enable access to different areas of the park.

There is a spot below about 7th Ave on the Mori trail that was washed out in 2020 and has not been repaired, it would take a village worker about an hour with a shovel and a bucket to put the sand/gravel back on the trail from the beach. The village started working on their new outhouse a few years ago and destroyed the Mori trail at Bigelow Bay. Come on guys get your sh-t together! It would be great if the Mori Trail was more accessible. It's a jewel in New Denver

It would be nice to have a walkway overlooking the lake like Nakusp and Nelson has. See my last comment about Centennial Park access.

many curbs are too high for me to step up as I walk with crutches

The Mori trail can be definitely be improved, for example where the trail was washed away by high water levels.

The Mori Trail and steps to the beach need upgrading.

Only parts of the Mori trail are accessible to mobility scooters. The highway bridge is daunting and a scooter accessible foot bridge lower on Carpenter Creek would be so much better. The sand that was spread on the creek trail east of the Highway bridge is hard to walk on. Alley snowplowing, or lack of, in winter, is sometimes a problem. A scooter path linking the top of 8th Ave and Cemetery and Denver Siding would be helpful. A scooter path connecting west end of 11th Ave and Bigelow Bay park would be great. I realize these are all big projects and may take decades to accomplish but thanks for asking.

Mori trail hard to use for people with disabilities or mobility issues

Steep access to trail at Bigelow Bay, rocky lake access, connectivity between New Denver and Silverton

1.there is no wheelchair access to the lake. 2.most of the trails are not wheelchair accessible 3. the ramp to the dock at the boat launch is steep and there is no way to get a disabled person into a boat.

Unstable rocks at Centennial PK beach make it difficult for me to walk into lake. Need sidewalk from Columbia to New Market for safety walking from cars.

As mentioned earlier, improvement to trail surface and hwy access would greatly improve creekside trail between bridge and EV charging area.

There is no side walk on Hwy 31A

The rocks at Centennial Beach do make entry to the lake difficult

Access to the lake between Slocan Ave & 6th Ave

I would like a safe walking/bike riding lane /trail/ from New Denver to Silverton. If upgrades happen , speed bumps so people can't go too fast in town ...

The path next to Carpenter creek might be made more accessible with a better ramp from the highway side down

-Provide mats in key locations for access into the lake -Widen trails where possible to better accommodate all users -Keep trail surfaces compact and maintained -Provide accessible trail connecting from Galena Ave through the rose trail and Kohan Garden, through Centennial Park and to the Pump Track and highway bridge hard-pack the trail along south side of Carpenter Creek from Hwy 6-lakeside past the TV tower; hard-pack the "rose" path along the lakeside from Josephine/Galena to the Kohan Garden entrance; work with the SLGS to make a wheelchair-friendly path through the Kohan.

Not much beach access for anyone with mobility issues; What's left of the "off leash dog area" is full of tripping hazards for even sure footed folk; Need pedestrian crosswalk at north end of Carpenter Creek bridge connecting active transportation trail; most village sidewalks are in disrepair and need accessibility ramps at intersections;

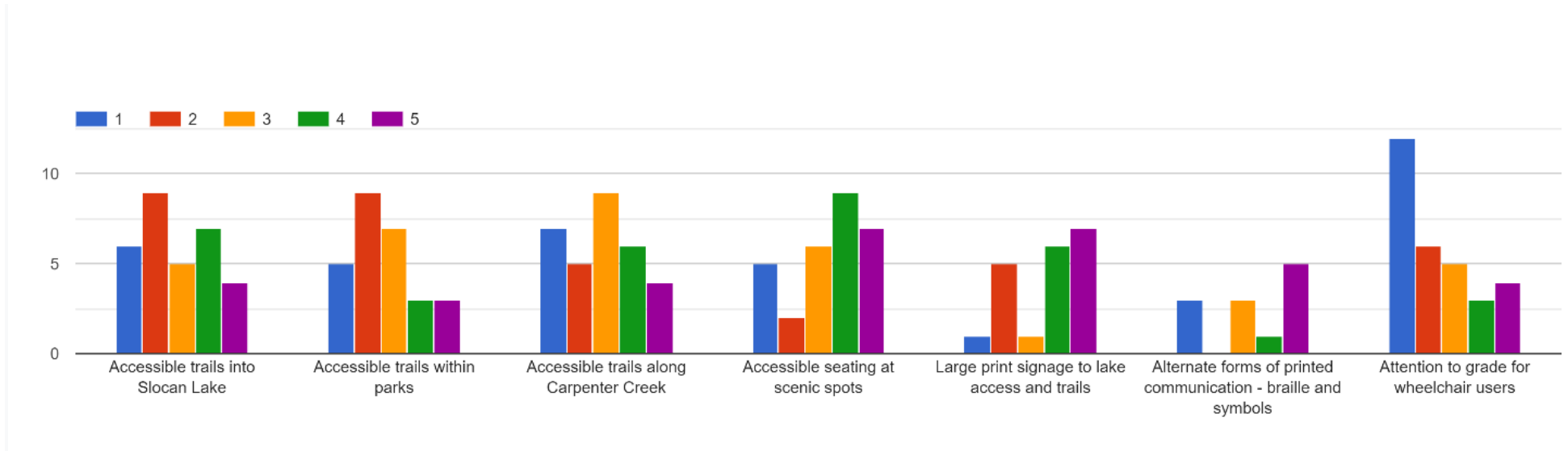
Ice management in the winter would increase trail usability Compact trail surfacing is harder on joints so I walk on the grass when possible

-Need to make the "dog park" accessible! -Railings generally -Places to sit in dog park area

-Entrance to Beach at bottom of 5th Ave -Entrance to Beach at bottom of Main St -Graded entrance to Bigelow - wheelchair accessibility or walker accessibility

Access to Nature

Access to Nature



Is there a priority that is missing from the list above?

An accessible bridge over carpenter creek

The first two should be a 5. Let me rank some in the same column, especially because you have 7 questions and only 5 columns.

Safe crossing of Carpenter Creek for bikes and scooters

Accessible covered areas to shelter from rain or sun.

Railings (rate this #4)

To Pavilion & Health Centre; icy conditions to be aware of & dealt with.

Additional comments about the list above:

13 responses

n/a

Wheelchair/walker Accessible trails from the Pavilion to the park and lake are important for families of residents to have available to them for outings. The main street in ND should be a smooth surface and eventually the downtown streets nearby so one can go for a walk. I don't think handicap parking spaces are important as there are so many cars that have stickers that really don't need them, they get them for city visits, but a drop off zone so you can drop off a person in a wheelchair or walker would be useful ,then the driver can find a close by parking spot, this would make more sense.

One response per column? or one response per row??

This hits my issues.

Who would fund the improvements?

only 5 columns above so could not answer some

All good

None

It says I can't select more than one response per column, but there are seven improvements to choose from.

You will of course have to deal with issue of whether or not "accessible" really means accessible to human-powered transport like bikes, ebikes, skateboards, rollerblades, or are we talking mainly about accessibility for the physically handicapped.

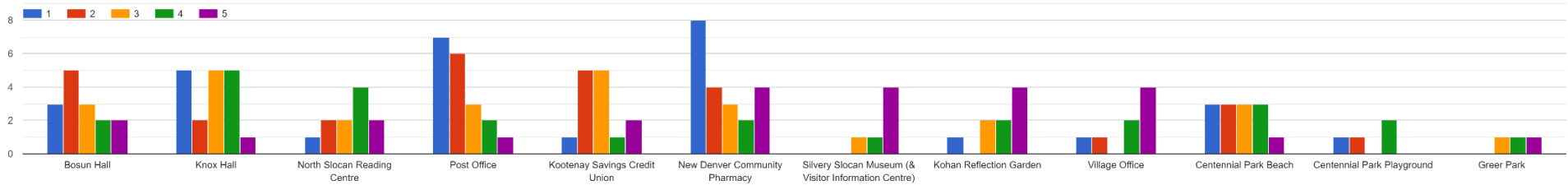
I have a huge concern about the lack of development of the promised dog park. As a dog owner with ever-increasing mobility issues, I really want to see something that will take me & my ageing dog(s) (I will always have a senior dog) into our declining years.

-Icy conditions crossing Main St or 6th Ave -Awkward small entrance & exit to New Market

Location of accessible trails should be carefully considered as they have a larger environmental impact than regular trails

Parking

Please choose your top priority locations for designated accessible parking spaces, ranked in order of priority (1 being highest priority, 5 being lowest):



Is there a priority location that is missing from the list above?

No, I don't think there should be designated parking just drop off zones if about 5-10 mins. Too many people have the permits that don't really need them for parking just maybe a quick drop off. They use many reasons like aches and pains, overweight etc instead of unloading wheelchairs or walkers.

Dog walking parking area

Should allow 4 of them to be top picks, and then rank the others

A ramp to the stage at the Bosun

The grocery store.

Not sure. wish the list permitted additional selections.

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding designated accessible parking spaces, please list them here (200 words or less):

8 responses

n/a

I don't think we need special parking as much of the community has mobility issues and we can usually work out who needs to park in front

See above. Just look around and every second car has a permit it seems.

The question format is like "choose between eating and drinking". It is impossible to choose between the top 5. I would choose a top 4 or 5 and then rank the rest after that

Generally speaking, "handicap parking" is only for the use of registered handicapped drivers who are able to operate a vehicle, and able to get from their residence into the vehicle in the first place. I'm not a big fan of this practice (except at hospitals, pharmacies, etc.), but recognize that it's a cheap way to appear to be sensitive and satisfy senior government accessibility criteria.

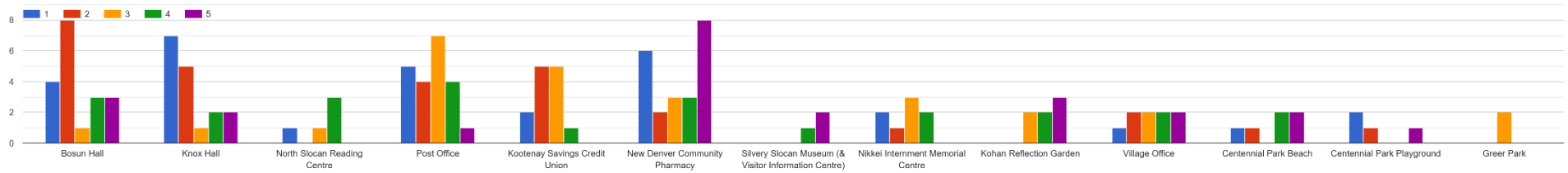
Very obvious and visible signage is important as people tend to not read signs.

I would like to see accessible parking at the parks

Make sure there are ramps right nearby

Please choose your top priority locations for accessible non-commercial loading and passenger zones, ranked in order of priority (1 being highest priority, 5 being lowest):

Please choose your top priority locations for accessible non-commercial loading and passenger zones, ranked in order of priority (1 being highest priority, 5 being lowest):



Is there a priority location that is missing from the list above?

Liquor store

Same as above. False choices here because some are non-negotiable

The Friday Market site

How can you have more questions than columns and then tell people to select only one per column?

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding accessible non-commercial loading and passenger zones, please list them here (in 200 words or less):

6 responses

n/a

I doubt commercial trucks will appreciate cars with handicap permits in their zones. Look at New Market the whole side of the street is designated loading zone. Great idea for a quick 5 min drop off zone though.

Prefer Accessible Parking Stalls so users can park and remain in place.

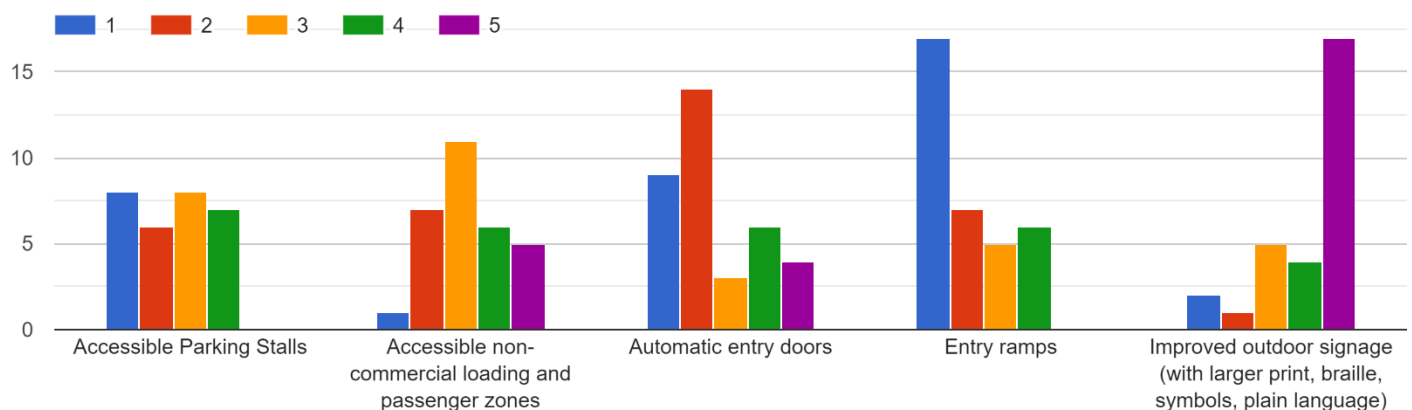
see previous comment

A bylaw officer who could issue actual fines would help stop people from parking illegally in accessibility spaces.

Not sure we need many of these... yet. Perhaps only seasonally during the busy visitor season.

Building Accessibility

We would like to get a sense of what improvements should be prioritized. Please consider the following accessibility improvements (for public buildings) and rank in order from most important (#1) to least important (#5)



Is there a priority improvement that is missing from the list above?

Hand railings on stairs at popular places

The Health Center

School

Railings (would rate as #5)

Exit (Emergency); Exit (Emergency) Ramp

Additional comments about the list above:

3 responses

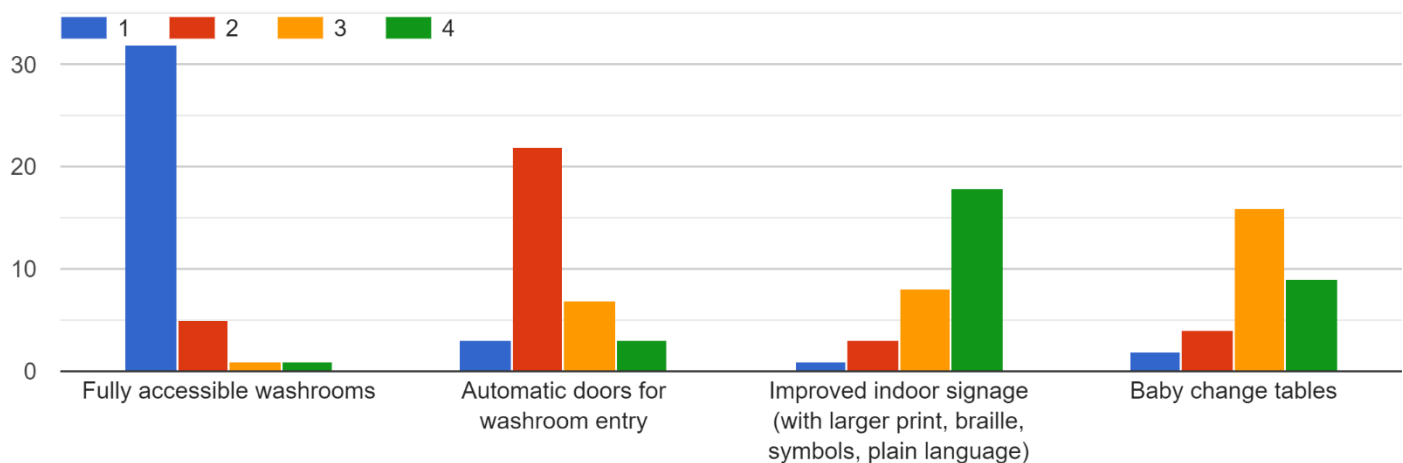
n/a

Sidewalks in the vicinity of the Bosun Hall are unusable for people with accessibility issues.

There is only the Entrance door and the Emergency EXIT from the offices of Hospice / AA / and Ambulance Corps. The porch has broken floor, no rain/snow cover, no (repeat) no railing! Slippery when wet. Hospice clients are OLD. IH spent a fortune on accommodations for ambulance & paid no attention to inadequate / unsafe Emergency EXIT.

Amenities in Buildings

We would like to get a sense of what improvements should be prioritized. Please consider the following accessibility improvements (for public bu... from most important (#1) to least important (#5):



Is there a priority improvement that is missing from the list above?

gender-neutral washrooms

Somewhere to plug in mobility scooters in case of low batteries.

Railings (would rate as #5)

Additional comments about the list above:

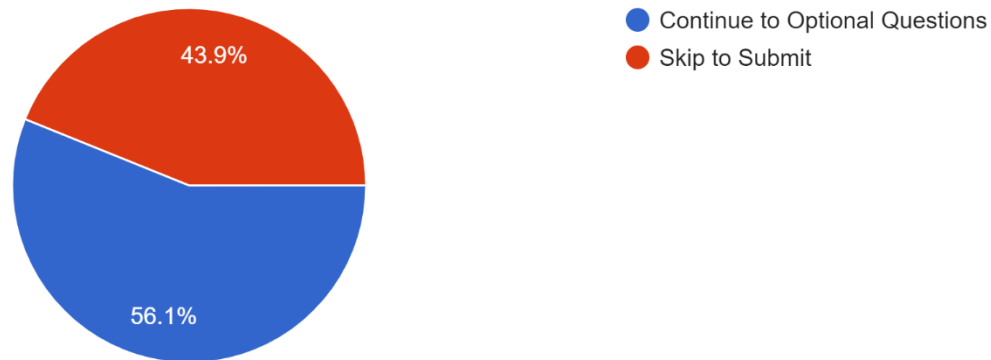
wouldn't "fully accessible" washrooms include "automatic doors for washroom entry?"

The toilet in the IH bldg. housing offices of Hospice, IH, and Ambulance is NOT accessible. Not even a grab bar to get up from very low toilet. I'm 85 and clients (Hospice anyway) tend to be old. Where is GYM? (remember I'm 85). 1 - there is no grab bar for the Erg. 2 - One bike has had broken knob (used to adjust seat height) for

months. 3 - lights in bike room have been out for months. 4 - coat rack is not accessible without asking people on bench or bike to make room. 5 - carpet at door is a tripping hazard.

Optional Questions

41 responses



Bosun Hall

8 responses

I would put accessible washrooms at the top of the list

looks good

Accessible Washrooms

Not sure

Improve inclusive access from outside. Provide fully accessible washrooms. Provide inclusive access to stage and kitchen considerations, including serving windows.

My priorities would be the installation of automatic doors and (removable) stair railings. I've used those stairs for years, and they can be exciting. Railings would greatly enhance their safety, but must be removable for times when they are needed to bring equipment on and off the stage.

Power access for recharging mobility scooters.

Provide accessible washrooms Install railing on stairs to stage Install ramp for stage access

Silvery Slocan Museum + New Denver Visitor Information Centre

9 responses

no comment

looks good

No special parking

Fix the sidewalk and a ramp for the Bellevue St side.

Proper Highway Signage

No

Not as important as improving graded access to the entry sidewalk.

Assuming accessible parking might be on Bellevue at n/w corner of building, sidewalk improvements are needed. Also, have somewhere to recharge mobility scooters. The washroom access here is also poor.

-Open hours all year. -Path up hillside to back door needs to have steps - grassy knoll is slippery.

Greer Park

12 responses

no comment - don't use this park

looks good

An accessible trail to the washroom facilities would be ideal.

Wheel chair access for trail and picnic area

i absolutely agree with the need for an accessible trail

Handicap accessible public washroom

Yes

Provide inclusive / accessible trail through the park. Replace vault toilet with year-round functioning, accessible public washrooms downtown.

I like the idea of wheelchair-friendly picnic tables, and hard-pack paths to reach them.

the picnic table is already right next to the parking area so you could add a picnic table

Better signage about this park in general would be nice as it feels very under used in general.

Install wheelchair-friendly picnic tables Install accessible trail

Village Office

5 responses

automatic doors for Council Chambers would be a welcome addition

looks good

Automatic doors would top my list of the considerations mentioned above.

Charging station.

Asterisks beside acoustic sound panels in Council Chambers

Knox Hall

7 responses

All relevant

no comment

looks good

yes absolutely there needs to be an automatic door opener for the washroom

Rubber matting?

Improve wheelchair / scooter accessibility from outside.

Automatic doors are a big help for those with mobility impairments.

North Slokan Community Library

4 responses

accessible parking space definitely needed. would also like to see automatic door opener for the washroom

looks good

Again I would say that DAPs are less important than your other considerations.

Need Library sign at roadway so people know where it is.

Centennial Park Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

3 responses

no comment

looks good

Why?

Centennial Park Lake Access

7 responses

no comment

looks good

Yes

Improve boat launch surfacing

Our present launch facilities are - and should be - available to all watercraft users.

Provide larger print signage, braille, and symbols Provide seasonal roll-out mat for access into the lake Provide dedicated non-motorized boat launch facilities

Asterisk beside provide dedicated non-motorized boat launch facilities

Carpenter Creek Trails

11 responses

no comment

If the disc golf course is Village-sanctioned, make it wheelchair accessible. It could be a completely unique amenity.

the ramps off the highway bridge are not wheel chair friendly

looks good

As mentioned before, ramps to access the trails from the highway would help cyclists as well as those with mobility issues.

Dog area needs to have these .

YES YES YES

Yes.

I think this area should be kept as natural as possible, and not widen or harden the paths

Make access to the "dog beach" better as it's currently horrendous even for those without mobility issues.

Widen paths, and do not make the entire trail densely packed trail surface

Carpenter Creek Highway Bridge

11 responses

Collababoration with responsible authorities is essential

no comment

strongly agree

Very important to work collaboartively with other jursidictions

Improved crossing at the highway

It can be quite dangerous crossing the bridge- wider sidewalks might help

Definitely needed.

Provide safe pedestrian access between Union at Slocan Ave and Highway Bridge (in front of Canco)

Yes. This would be a high priority on my list, if I was making one.

Put a pedestrian crosswalk at the north end. I often see people on the creekside trail waiting to cross safely with traffic zooming by, oblivious.

Sure

All-Wheels Park

5 responses

Very inclusive suggestions

no comment

Would be highly valuable

A barrier between the dogs and the wheelers. And a fence to keep the dogs in the area.

Yes.

Centennial Park & Campground

9 responses

Excellent

support items 1 and 2 - picnic tables and washrooms

looks good

wheelchair-friendly picnic tables are a great idea!

-Install speed bumps to slow traffic -Provide accessible trail connecting Galena Ave through Kohan Garden into Centennial Park -Improve accessibility of furnishings in Gazebo, and park benches -Improve accessibility of trash and recycling receptacles -Designate at least 2 campsites as accessible and provide appropriate accommodations

A top priority for me would be to improve the broken pavement on the "path" that goes past the gazebo and connects the north and south ends of the park.

Accessible covered area for rain and sun protection.

Add picnic tables that are wheelchair-friendly Improve accessibility of all bathrooms, e.g. automatic doors, wider entry, etc. Invest in mats for seasonal inclusive access to the beach Add wheelchair accessible path and seating areas near the boat launch or dock Invest in accessible play structures

The "dog park" needs to be considered along with this. Access & garbage can. Washroom would be ideal.

[Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre](#)

5 responses

no comment

looks good

Provide secure bicycle parking

Are you satisfied with the current visitor access to the historic cabins, and are improvements possible without destroying their historicity?

Add designated accessible parking space Add railing on Centennial Hall ramp Install larger print signage, braille, and audio versions

[Kohan Reflection Garden](#)

5 responses

no comment

looks good

It is difficult (but worth it) to push a standard wheelchair around the garden.

Provide accessible trail along lake connecting Centennial Park past the Kohan and through the rose trail to Galena Ave

Hard-pack path(s) for the mobility-impaired would be nice, if done with the cooperation of and input from the SLGS volunteers.