

AccessForward: Training for an Accessible Ontario

Space for Everyone

Introduction to the Design of Public Spaces Standard – Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation

NARRATOR:

Public spaces connect us to where we want to go. When we leave home we depend on them to take us to everything our communities have to offer.

Accessible public spaces provide the important link between places to work, travel, shop and play.

Removing barriers on recreational trails, outdoor play spaces, parking, along sidewalks, and at pedestrian crossing areas will make public spaces easier to navigate, allowing people with disabilities to get to where they want to go and giving them the chance to enjoy our outdoor spaces.

Within the next 20 years, as the population ages, the number of people with disabilities will increase from 1 in 7 to 1 in 5.

[text on screen:] Over the next 20 years the number of people with disabilities will increase from 1 in 7 to 1 in 5

This means increased demand for accessible public spaces that support independence and mobility, for example, increased availability of accessible parking that can provide better access to shopping and services.

Ontario is making public spaces accessible through the Design of Public Spaces Standard.

The Design of Public Spaces Standard builds on accessibility design practices we already see emerging in our communities when new public spaces are built, and when major changes are made to older spaces.

Though change takes time, considering the needs of people with disabilities from the earliest stages when designing, planning and constructing public spaces will result in more accessible and liveable communities for all Ontarians.

Providing the same opportunities for people with disabilities as everyone else allows for people to fully participate in the life of our communities by allowing them to be active and independent.

Increasing access to places where people can shop, work and play is an investment in our province's future.

Through these improvements, we really are making Ontario open to everyone.

The Design of Public Spaces Standard, as outlined in this module, sets requirements for specific features of our physical environment that will make it easier for people with disabilities to move through, use and enjoy what our communities have to offer.

[text on screen:] Design of Public Spaces Standard

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[text on screen:] Developed by Curriculum Services Canada with support from the Government of Ontario
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