

Staff Report

To: Mayor Bazinet and Members of Council
Report From: Michaela Johnston, CEMC, Accessibility and Health & Safety Manager
Meeting Date: August 11, 2025
Subject: Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant
Attachment(s): None

Recommendation:

That Goderich Town Council concurs with the staff recommendation to make application to the Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant.

Report Summary:

The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility is launching a new grant program in 2025 called the Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant. The goal of this program is to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and older adults by supporting them to live active, healthy, safe, and socially connected lives.

The 2025-26 EASE Grant will provide up to a maximum of \$60,000 per successful applicant for projects that take place between November 2025 and September 30, 2026, that align with the following priority:

- Implement improvements to outdoor spaces and the built environment, including housing, to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and older adults

Staff recommend that an application be made for the addition of sensory and inclusive playground equipment at one or more of the Town of Goderich parks. At the time of this report, staff are undertaking discussions with various playground equipment providers to provide quotes for such inclusive equipment. Suggested items include an inclusive 'roundabout', sensory panels, sensory wave spinning seats, and an inclusive "We Rock EZ".

Examples of some suggested items are below.



Background and Analysis:

The Town has several playgrounds, many of which include inclusive features such as accessible swings and sensory equipment. Through replacement of aging equipment, grant funds, and donations, the Town looks to enhancing these public spaces to provide a more inclusive environment for all residents.

Linkage to the Corporate Strategic Plan (Choose all that apply):

- ☐ No. 1 Safe and Reliable Infrastructure
- ☒ No. 2 Welcoming and Caring Community
- ☐ No. 3 Strong Local Economy
- ☐ No. 4 Good Government
- ☐ No. 5 Environmental Stewardship

Linkage to Asset Management Plan:

This staff report is related to the following within the Town's Asset Management Program (Choose one):

- ☐ Road Network
- ☐ Water Network

And directly impacts (Choose all that apply):

- ☒ State of Good Repair/Replacement
- ☒ Municipal Levels of Service

- ☐ Sanitary Network
- ☐ Storm Network
- ☐ Fleet
- ☐ Facilities
- ☐ Land Improvements
- ☐ Machinery and Equipment

- ☐ Risk Management
- ☐ Growth Impacts
- ☐ Financial Strategy

Financial Impacts and/or Source of Funding:

No financial impact is associated with this report, as this proposed project will not proceed unless the EASE grant application is approved and funding provided. The Grant program is fully funded by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Consulted With:

Nathan Feagan, Parks/Cemetery Supervisor

Kyle Williams, Community Services and Operations Manager

Approved By:

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer

Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk