

## Staff Report

**To:** Mayor Bazinet and Members of Council  
**Report From:** Michaela Johnston, CEMC, Accessibility and Health & Safety Manager  
**Meeting Date:** April 13, 2026  
**Subject:** RT04 Partnership Program Application – AccessOutdoors Program  
**Attachment(s):** RT04 Partnership Program Guide

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### **Recommendation:**

That Goderich Town Council approves staff to submit an application to the RT04 Partnership Program's "AccessOutdoors Program", to map and assess the Goderich boardwalk and Main Beach with an accessibility lens, and to publish the results on the AccessNow platform;

And That if the application is approved, the Town's contribution be funded from the Community Safety and Well-Being for Huron Plan initiatives line in the approved 2026 Health and Safety and Accessibility Budget – 1040.

### **Report Summary:**

RT04 supports the tourism sector across Perth County, Huron County, Waterloo Region, and Wellington County. They work in partnership with local tourism organizations, destinations, and operators to strengthen the economic and cultural impact of tourism in the region. Through their Partnership Program, municipalities can apply to several funding streams. One funding stream is the "AccessOutdoors Program". The deadline to apply is April 22, 2026.

The AccessOutdoors Program is designed to help parks and trail organizations map and assess accessibility, and share information to support visitors with diverse access needs. Using the AccessOutdoors collector tool, they conduct a mapping assessment and publish the results on the AccessNow platform. Visitors using the AccessNow platform can access the information collected to help reduce anxiety and risk of experiencing barriers, promoting safe and inclusive adventures for all. An example of a mapped, accessible trail prepared in partnership with RT04 is the Guelph OAC Centennial Arboretum Centre:

<https://map.accessnow.com/details/4e70278f-3faa-40bf-bd55-2db0d7019897/local/?lng=%lngCode%>

A similar virtual map would be prepared for the boardwalk and Main Beach. RT04 has advised the cost would be approximately \$5,000.00 to map this area. If approved, application will be made for the total sum of \$6,000 to ensure sufficient funding is received. If successful, funding in the sum of 50% of the total cost of the project would be provided by RT04.

**Background and Analysis:**

The Town of Goderich has a welcoming, accessible boardwalk and main beach area which includes Mobi-Mats, a waterwheels or floating wheelchair, a beach access chair, and accessible washrooms. The AccessNow platform provides unique insight about trails including accessibility reviews regarding slope, terrain, access points, points of interest, amenities and more. By uploading a virtual map of the boardwalk and main beach, individuals with accessibility concerns can be assured that visiting Goderich's waterfront will be a welcoming and inclusive experience.

**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):

And directly impacts (Choose all that apply):

- Road Network
- Water Network
- Sanitary Network
- Storm Network
- Fleet
- Facilities
- Land Improvements
- Machinery and Equipment

- State of Good Repair/Replacement
- Municipal Levels of Service
- Risk Management
- Growth Impacts
- Financial Strategy

**Financial Impacts and/or Source of Funding:**

Is this cost budgeted for? Yes:  No:

Budget: \$6,000.00

Actual: \$3,000.00

Difference: \$3,000.00

RT04 will provide 50% of the cost of the mapping, or \$3,000.00. The Town would then be responsible for the remaining 50%, of \$3,000.00. Council has approved the sum of \$6,000 for Community Safety and Well-Being initiatives in the 2026 Health and Safety and Accessibility Budget (1040), which will cover the cost of this endeavour.

**Consulted With:**

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Charlotte Moore, RT04 Tourism Innovation

**Approved By:**

Janice Hallahan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Andrea Fisher, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk