

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: February 6, 2024

Subject: Accessible Parking

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the accessible and librarian parking spaces in front of the Recreation Centre be repainted and signed as shown in Option #2 to create three accessible parking spaces to the minimum size requirements set in Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017 of 4.0 meters wide and 7.5 meters long, with the additional 1.5 meters accessibility lanes for side-loading vehicles adjacent the parking spaces.

BACKGROUND:

During the January 22, 2024 Regular Council meeting, Council passed a motion directing staff to bring forward a report on the bylaw language pertaining to accessible/disability parking spots, particularly their size. A need was identified for more accessible parking at the Recreation Centre, including the need for a parking space for a vehicle requiring a loading zone.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING REGULATION

The BC Building Code 2016 leaves accessible parking requirements to municipal governments. It is harmonized with the National Building Code 2015, which also does not include requirements for accessible parking spaces.

As such accessible parking spaces are subject to District bylaws. Traffic and Parking Bylaw No. 831, 1994 sets requirements for the proper parking in and marking of accessible parking spaces. Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017 sets the requirements for the minimum dimensions and ratio of accessible parking spaces required compared to non-accessible parking spaces.

Traffic and Parking Bylaw No. 831, 1994 describes authorized signs that mark accessible parking spaces, describe who is prohibited from parking in those spaces, requires that these parking spaces shall be kept free of snow or otherwise maintained to the same standards as all other parking spaces in the same parking facility, and who is authorized to enforce this bylaw. The bylaw also requires that accessible parking spaces are to be identified by authorized signs. The authorized sign is depicted in Schedule B of the bylaw.

Section 5.5 of the Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017 describes when parking facilities require accessible parking spaces, and what the minimum size requirements of those parking spaces are. The bylaw states that “in an instance where building or use on a parcel requiring twenty (20) parking spaces or more, every off-street parking facility must provide 1% of the required stalls, with a minimum of one stall for the use of persons with physical limitations. Each stall must be:

- i. At least 4 m in width and at least 7.5 m in length;
- ii. Located as close as possible to a main accessible building entrance;
- iii. Clearly identified for the exclusive use of physical challenged persons; and
- iv. Must be connected to a main accessible building entrance by a main accessible building entrance by a paved and smoothed path.”

The Recreation Centre currently has 68 public parking spaces in the upper parking lot. The minimum requirement for the number of accessibility parking spaces is therefore 1.68. The current accessible parking stalls meet the minimum number, but do not currently meet the minimum size requirements for Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017.

CONVERTING PARKING SPACES AT THE RECREATION CENTRE TO ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES

Below are two tables. The first compares the parking stall minimum size requirements to the Accessible Stall Requirements. The second describes the width of the current parking spaces measured between the inside of the parking lines of each current space, with an additional measurement of the total width of the spaces measured from one outside edge to the other. Attached to this report is a map of the current parking spaces and two options for updating them.

Table 1: Minimum Size Requirements

	Parking Stall Requirements	Accessible Stall Requirements
Minimum Dimensions	3.0 m wide by 7.5 m long	4.0 m wide by 7.5 m long

Table 2: Current Parking space sizes

Parking Space (From Left to Right)	Space Width (Inside to Inside)
Librarian Stall #1	3.4 m wide
Librarian Stall #2	2.5 m wide
Accessible Stall #1	2.7 m wide
Accessible Stall #2	2.8 m wide
Accessible Stall #3	2.6 m wide
Accessible Stall #4	2.9 m wide
Total Width (paint line width included)	17.7 m wide

OPTIONS

Option #1 – Convert parking stalls to create four (4) accessible spaces with a 1.5 m accessibility lane adjacent to the parking space located nearest the Recreation Centre pathway. This option meets both size and number requirements and provides one space for those using side loading to enter and exit the vehicle.

Option #2 – Convert parking stalls to create three (3) accessible parking spaces with the minimum size requirements set in Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017. Each parking space will have a 1.5 m accessibility lane between them, a 1.5 m accessibility lane for side-loading vehicles adjacent to the westernmost parking space. This option meets both size and number requirements as well as creates multiple spaces for those using side loading to enter and exit their vehicles.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Rowan Paulsen, Local Government Intern

Reviewed By: Corporate Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer