

Accessible On-Street Parking

Background:

Staff has received requests from area residents regarding the implementation of accessible on-street parking spaces in a variety of locations within the city. Currently on-street parking is allowed on most roads within the City of Greater Sudbury except in areas where parked vehicles may pose a hazard to the travelling public (i.e. near crosswalks or intersections) or in specific locations described in the Schedules of Traffic and Parking By-Law 2010-1 ("By-Law").

The By-law allows on-street parking up to 4 hours in areas where no parking meters are present and up to 2 hours in areas with parking meters.

Currently the City of Greater Sudbury does not offer designated on-street accessible parking spaces. Residents who require the use of these spaces are required to find off-street accessible parking. Often times, these accessible off-street parking spaces can either be a significant distance from their intended destination or not available.

Methodology:

When looking to develop the Accessible On-Street Parking policy, staff looked to other Ontario municipalities to review current policies and best practices. An email survey was distributed and the responses that were received were reviewed and summarized.

From the responses received, it was determined that the majority of the municipalities offered accessible on-street parking in some capacity and a summary of what is provided can be seen in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Accessible Parking Spaces

Municipality	Accessible On-Street Parking Offered	Physical Designation
Newmarket	Parallel - Commercial Areas	Signs and Pavement Markings
Welland	Parallel - Commercial Areas	Signs and Pavement Markings
Chatham-Kent	Parallel - Commercial Areas Angled - Commercial Areas	Signs, Pavement Markings, Wider Angled Spaces, Longer Parallel Spaces

Municipality	Accessible On-Street Parking Offered	Physical Designation
St. Catharines	Parallel - Commercial Areas	Signs, Pavement Markings, Wider Parallel Spaces, Handrail
Brantford	Parallel - Commercial Areas Parallel - Residential Areas	Signs
Thunder Bay	Parallel - Commercial Areas Parallel - Residential Areas	Signs, Pavement Markings
Hamilton	Parallel - Residential Areas	Area Signs
North Bay	Parallel - Commercial Areas	Signs, Pavement Markings
Sault Ste. Marie	None	N/A

Based on the best practices from around the province, staff recommends the implementation of the following changes.

Parallel Residential Accessible On-Street Parking

These parking spaces are to be offered by request in front of a residence for anyone with an Accessible Parking Permit who does not have suitable off-street parking. The spaces will be directly linked to the requester's accessible parking permit and the program will be administered by Parking Services. The parking space will be removed if the parking permit expires or the resident notifies the City that they have moved. While the accessible parking space will be in front of the requester's residence, it will be available for use by anyone with an accessible parking permit. These parallel spaces will be standard in dimension (6.90m x 2.75m) and signed appropriately. It is also important to note that an accessible on-street parking space will not be permitted in areas where parking is restricted.

Angled Commercial Accessible On-Street Parking

These parking spaces are to be offered where angled on-street parking currently exists in the communities of Capreol, Copper Cliff, Levack and Lively. The accessible parking spaces will be implemented near medical offices, government offices, etc. and placed nearest areas of curb depressions if possible. The angled spaces will meet the dimensions for an accessible parking space (6.00m x 4.40m) and signed appropriately.

Stakeholder Consideration:

Following the creation of these recommendations, staff presented a review of the findings and an overview of the proposed changes to the Accessibility Advisory Panel on September 29, 2017. The proposed changes were seen by the panel as a positive step forward to create a more accessibility friendly city.

Next Steps:

Accessible On-Street Parking will help to further reduce the barriers that persons with disabilities face and help to create a more accessible and inclusive city. This also helps the City further fulfill its commitment to the Quality of Life and Place for all residents, a key pillar in the City of Greater Sudbury Corporate Strategic Plan.

Staff is recommending that the Traffic and Parking By-Law 2010-1 be amended to allow for accessible on-street parking in areas of parallel residential on-street parking and angled commercial on-street parking in specific locations to be determined through careful analysis, consultation and site assessments completed by staff.

If approved, staff will work with Parking Services and By-Law Enforcement to best determine the exact locations for each type of designated accessible parking within the city.

Communication Plan:

Upon approval of the by-law amendments by City Council, the City will issue a public service announcement and inform the public via social media of the changes. Further, staff will update the City's website to include details on the location of on-street accessible parking spaces in commercial areas and how to apply for a residential on-street accessible parking space.