



Wood  Lands

A Place to Put Down Roots

**THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WOODLANDS
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN**

Adopted September 12, 2017

Resolution No. 2017/415

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1.0 WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE SERVE

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Woodlands is located along Highway 6, just fifteen minutes north-west of the perimeter of Winnipeg.

The RM of Woodlands is a local government body who serves five community areas: Warren, Woodlands, Marquette, Lake Francis, and Erinview. None of these communities have their own town council, thus are administrated by the RM of Woodlands. The community of Warren has a Local Urban District (L.U.D) committee who acts as an arm of the RM and completes the Public Works duties within the L.U.D boundaries.

2.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

RM Buildings

- Office ramp meets and exceeds Manitoba building code width.
- Warren Hall has a ramp which currently meets code.
- New public works shop meets all current accessibility standards within the building code.
- Minimum of two accessible parking spaces at all RM-owned facilities.

RM Website

- The website www.rmwoodlands.info complies with the most essential accessibility requirements (i.e. page titles, alt tags, headings, resize text, etc.). Alt Tags provide a verbal description of a visual or graphic for individuals with visual impairments who use screen readers.

3.0 BARRIERS AND WORK PLAN (ACTIONS)

Barrier	Possible Solution	Action
Most public buildings in our RM do not have automatic door openers.	Install automatic door openers.	
Walkways leading up to Warren arena have too high a slope.	Correct the slope to meet building codes.	

Our municipal website does not have an option to enhance text size for people with visual impairments.		
Council chambers - Hearing Impaired	Investigation into devices available	
RM of Woodlands joint Interlake School division public library does not provide personal assistive devices		

4.0 STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Rural Municipality (RM) of Woodlands will work to identify and remove barriers in our communities to ensure accessibility and inclusiveness for all citizens and visitors. We are committed to providing spaces that can be used with independence and comfort.

5.0 DEFINITION OF ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY BARRIER

Accessibility:

People of all abilities have the opportunity to participate fully in everyday life.

Accessibility Barrier:

Anything that limits or prevents a person from being able to receive information, services and goods, or to access space or activities. Attitude can be the biggest barrier.

6.0 MUNICIPAL JURISDICTION PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN

Municipality: Rural Municipality of Woodlands

Address: 57 Railway Avenue, Woodlands, MB, ROC 3H0

Accessibility Plan Committee:

- Renée Simcoe, Economic Development Officer, Accessibility Coordinator
- Kelly Kimball, Rosser-Woodlands Recreation Director
- Orval Procter, RM of Woodlands Councillor
- Ila Buchanan, RM of Woodlands Councillor
- Robert Murray, L.U.D of Warren

Phone: (204) 383-5679 **Website:** www.rmwoodlands.info

7.0 MUNICIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

The RM of Woodlands has one nurse practitioner, and one physiotherapist who work out of the Woodlands Medical Clinic, 78 Porteous Avenue, in the community of Woodlands.

The RM of Woodlands also has the following organizations and services:

- Two elementary schools, one high school
- One childcare centre and multiple home-based centres
- One veterinary clinic
- One home-based spiritual healing professional
- Three home-based health & herbal professionals
- One first aid instructor
- As well as: Insurance services, bookkeeping services, two museums, five community centres, one berry-picking farm, one indoor and two outdoor skating rinks, seven baseball diamonds, two curling rinks, one soccer field, one skateboard park, one community park with picnic area, one rodeo grounds, 4 post offices, one golf course, two resort/campgrounds, one waste disposal grounds.

8.0 CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

The Economic Development Officer (EDO), Chief Administrative Officer and Recreation Director participated in a half day training workshop offered by the Disabilities Issues Office called, “Creating an Accessibility Plan”.

Session 1: Introduction to Accessibility Legislation

On November 9th, 2016 the RM of Woodlands held an open public meeting to educate, and get accessibility feedback from the public. The meeting was held at the Warren Fire Hall, and there were 10 people in attendance.

The feedback which came from the meeting consisted of the following:

- Ensure that snow is cleared from the sidewalks in the winter (x32).
- Who is responsible for changing lights on the streets in our towns?
- “Accessible” for those with a cane or pushable wheelchair is not necessarily accessible for someone with an electric chair. They are too heavy to be pushed or lifted.
- Put slopes on sidewalk accesses (X2)
- Ensure our current ramps are in compliance with building codes.
- Bathroom access - lower sinks and mirrors.
- Heavy door handles or automatic door opener buttons (X2).
- Public facilities parking lots and in ill repair.

- Parking spot at the RM office needs to change, not enough disabled parking spots.
- Can't get electric wheelchairs over the lips on some doors.

9.0 ACCESSIBIITY PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

The Accessibility Plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis; the committee will meet twice annually. At these meetings members present reports and/or suggestions for review, and will also hear any delegation(s) wishing to meet with the committee.

10.0 COMPLIANCE WITH THE STANDARDS

Standard # 1: Customer Service

1. The RM will ensure **communication** with a person disabled by a barrier by providing and receiving information and communications in ways that are accessible to people of all abilities. Communications and information will be made available in alternative formats upon request, and shall come at no additional cost.
2. The use of all types of **assistive devices** will be welcomed to reduce barriers.
3. All RM staff, councillors, volunteers and other associates shall welcome **support persons** free of charge, and shall ensure that communication (visual and verbal) is maintained with the person with the disability, not solely their support person.
4. The RM shall welcome **service animals** to enter all RM-owned premises and will ensure that the person is permitted to keep the animal with him or her unless the animal is otherwise excluded by law. If a service animal is excluded by law from the premises, the RM shall ensure that other measures are available to enable the person with a disability to obtain, use or benefit from goods or services.
5. To create a **barrier-free** environment, the RM will: Reduce and/or remove obstructions from doors and hallways; willingly accommodate (within reason) persons with disabilities upon request, and keep buildings in line with the most up-to-date building codes.
6. When there are **temporary barriers**, the RM will ensure that appropriate signage is posted, and verbally notify patrons as they enter the building.

7. The RM will receive and log verbal and written **feedback** related to accessibility and include it in the yearly review of the plan. A form will be created for the website that for people to submit feedback online.

8. All RM staff will receive a copy of the Accessibility Policy (POL-011), a copy of the Accessibility Plan, and the Employee Tips handbook from Accessibility Manitoba. An initial **training** session will take place and all will sign off on having taken the training. When a new standard comes out and/or is the plan is revised, employees will need to review and sign off on the plan. New employees will receive one on one training by the accessibility coordinator.

11.0 MONITORING

Identification of emerging accessibility based initiatives will be considered in the annual budget, and in any strategic planning procedure. Community groups and users will be encouraged to make reports to the Economic Development Officer, or, any APC member.

APC members will hold sensitive information in confidence at their reasonable discretion, or at the request of the individual.

Considerations in the Municipal Grant Program

The RM of Woodlands council may give priority to projects and initiatives of an accessibility nature that are submitted to the annual grant program.

12.0 ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES SERVICES

1) Manitoba Chapter Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA)

C/O SMD Clearinghouse
2nd Floor, 825 Sherbrook Street
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1M5
PH: 204-975-3037
FX: 204-975-3027
www.chha-mb.ca

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association is a non-profit organization is a non-profit, self-help consumer advocate organization run by and for persons who are hard of hearing. The mission of CHHA is to ensure that hard of hearing consumers understand how to have their needs met, and to promote their integration and full participation in Canadian Society.

2) Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)

930 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0P8
PH: 204-982-6100
FX: 204-982-6128
www.cmha.ca

CMHA is a nation-wide, volunteer organization that promotes the mental health of all, and supports the resilience and recovery of people experiencing mental illness. The CMHA accomplishes this mission through advocacy, education, research and service. Founded in 1918, that are one of the oldest voluntary organizations in Canada providing direct service to more than 100,000 Canadians each year through the combined efforts of more than 10,000 volunteers and staff across Canada in over 120 communities.

3) Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Regional Office
1080 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 3M3
PH: 204-774-5421

CNIB is a nationwide, community-based, registered charity and is committed to research, public education and the vision of health for Canadians. The CNIB provides vital programs and services, innovative consumer products and one of the world's largest libraries for people with print disabilities. CNIB offers specialized programs and services for people of all ages and their families.

- The CNIB's vision rehabilitation program is the most comprehensive in Canada and includes:
- Low Vision Services, including professional assessments and instruction on how to maximize vision using everything from magnifiers and lighting to contrasting colours and textures.
- Training to help manage the essentials of daily living, with emphasis on maintaining independence.
- Orientation and mobility instruction, focusing on how to move safely around the home, community, workplace or school.
- Training and support for accessible computer technology.

4) Community Living Manitoba

#6-120 Maryland Street
Winnipeg, MB R3G 1L1
PH: 204-786-1607
FX: 204-789-9850
E: aclmb@aclmb.ca
www.aclmb.ca

Community Living Manitoba is dedicated to the full inclusion of persons of all ages who live with an intellectual disability. Living, working and learning in an inclusive community means that all people — including those with an intellectual disability — have a variety of opportunities to contribute to their communities.

Community Living Manitoba is a strong provincial network of 11 Local Branches working together with partners, families and governments. We seek approaches to support the empowerment of people with intellectual disabilities in all aspects of their lives.

We are a board governed, grassroots organization that has always been comprised of self-advocates, family and community members, as well as members of Local Branches throughout the province.

5) Accessible Transportation Services:

Stonewall & District Handivan

3 buses (1 sm. 2 lg.) that are wheelchair accessible

PH: 204-467-8446

HRS: 8AM-4PM