

A photograph of four children playing in a large blue sensory bin filled with dark soil. The bin is situated on a grassy area. One child, a young girl with a pink flower in her hair, is seated in a wheelchair on the right side of the bin, reaching into the soil. Other children are standing around the bin, some using small toys like a red shovel and blue scoops. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

**EASTER SEALS  
ACCESSIBILITY REPORT**

Holland Planning Innovations

**EASTER SEALS  
ACCESSIBILITY  
REPORT**

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**RICK HANSEN FOUNDATION ACCESSIBILITY  
CERTIFICATION™ (RHFAC)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This document gives an overview of the best practices in universal design to be adapted for the redevelopment of the Easter Seals camp.

Universal design is the design of buildings, products or environments to make them accessible to all people.



COGNITIVE

20XX



VISUAL



AUDITORY

PITCH DECK



MOTOR



COMMUNICATIONS

3

## ACCESSIBILITY AND CHALLENGES OVERVIEW



### **BUILDINGS**

The camp's buildings are currently not equipped to handle people with various disabilities.



### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The camp needs new ramps, lifts, and wayfinding connections that provide ease and comfort to the future campers.



### **LANDSCAPE**

The camp has an undulating landscape which needs to be redesigned to add/remove elements so that everyone can enjoy the outdoors.



### **OTHER**

Other features such as Wi-Fi enable lanyard systems, and new applications to keep track and communicate with each other can be added to improve the camping experience.



## GOALS AND INTENT

- To achieve the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification for Easter Seals Camp.
- To shape the landscape, design, and functioning of the camp to accommodate and entertain a diversified group of campers with disabilities and their families.
- To transform the camp into a living laboratory of innovation and learning for individuals with disabilities.



# ELEMENTS OF ACCESSIBILITY

# BUILDINGS

## ENTRANCE

- The Easter Seals camp's entrance will be updated to provide a clear and barrier-free access for people using wheelchairs or scooters, and for people with companions or service dogs.
- Landscaping adjacent to the entrance pathways will support Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), which is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring crime while also increasing accessibility.
- Lighting in the entrance lobby will ease the transition between the exterior and interior environment to enable people's eyes to adjust.

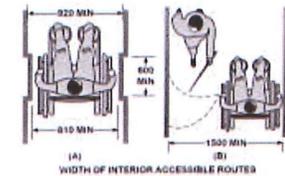


Figure 12. Width of interior accessible routes (measurements in mill)

## HORIZONTAL CIRCULATION

- The site navigation will be designed to ensure that changes in level are mitigated with the use of additional pathways, ramps or lifts as required by the landscape.
- Colour contrast will be utilized to increase visibility and navigation, particularly with respect to the building structures' flooring, doors and fixtures.
- Round, graspable handrails will be installed around the camp to provide support, balance, and guidance.

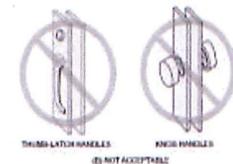
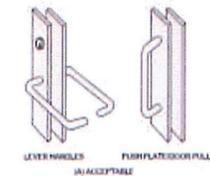


Figure 13. Acceptable door handles

# BUILDINGS

## VERTICAL CIRCULATION

### Ramps

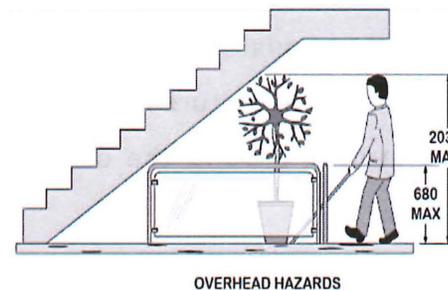
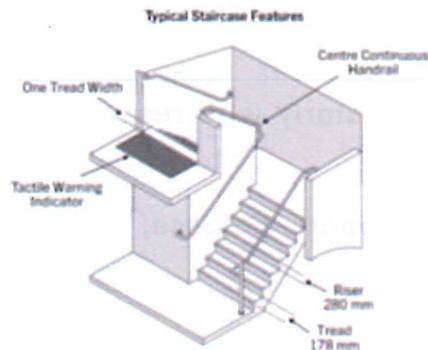
- New ramps will be installed around the camp that have adequate turning radius for people using mobility devices, or service dogs.

### Elevators:

- The new elevators will include the accessibility package, including accessible controls, auditory indicators, handrails and rear-wall mirrors.

### Stairs:

- The stairs will be updated to have continuous, graspable handrails on both sides, slip-resistant treads, and high contrast nosings.
- New tactile attention indicators will be placed at the top of the stairs and landings to notify people with low vision.



# BUILDINGS

## BEDROOMS/LODGING

- The new dormitories will have an adequate number of accessible rooms.
- Special care will be taken to design the sleeping areas ensuring sufficient floor space, and grab bar placement.
  - For example, the bed's height will allow an easy transfer to and from a wheelchair.
  - A visual and auditory emergency alarm will be installed in the washrooms and bedrooms.
  - Windows will have hand crank or other accessible operating system within easy reach.
- Accommodations for assistive care might be needed.
- Calming colors will be used for walls and furniture—white, green, blue.
- Canopy beds/blackout blinds can be installed to limit stimulation during night.
- Low-level or adjustable lighting will be considered to reduce sensory overload.
- The rooms will have enough storage spaces to reduce clutter.
- Proper sound insulation will be done to drown out outdoor noises if the rooms are located near a noisy area.



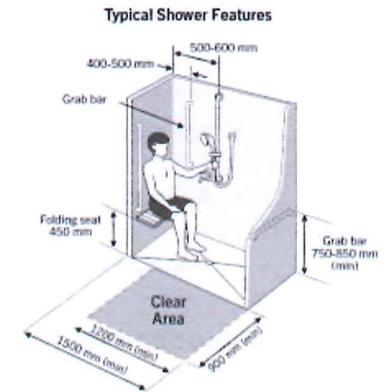
# BUILDINGS

## TOILETS/BATHING FACILITIES

- The updated washrooms will meet CSA B65-18 standards to include sufficient turning radius, grab bar and fixture placement.
- The opening hardware on entry or toilet stall doors, including handles, pulls, latches, locks and other operational devices, will be operable with an open hand or with limited dexterity.
- A 90-degree grab bar will be installed on the wall beside the toilet, along with a grab bar installed behind the toilet. The toilet will also offer back support via the use of a tank or the installation of back support.
- Roll-in showers will be installed and will include hand-held shower heads, shower benches, and accessible fixtures.

## CAFETERIAS

- The updated cafeteria/dining hall will have shelves and counters that are within easy reach for people using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Products will be stacked vertically to ensure some of each product is available for people with different ranges of motion.
- Seating for people with disabilities will be dispersed throughout the dining/cafeteria. A mixture of chairs with and without arm rests will be made available.



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## BUILDINGS

- The tables will also be universally accessible and a minimum clearance under a table to accommodate people using wheelchairs will be provided. Height adjustable tables can also be considered.

## CHANGE ROOMS

- The new changing rooms will be designed with universal design in mind, including accessible height operating mechanisms, fixtures and grab bars.
- The new changing rooms will include a height-adjustable adult size change bench to assist those who require assistance with dressing.

## POOL

The camp is planning to update the existing pool:

- The pool deck surface will be non-slip and prevent pooling of water. Routes to the newly installed lifts or ramps, changing facilities and showers will be direct and unobstructed.
- The location of safety equipment will be clearly indicated using symbols or icons in high contrast and mounted at accessible heights.
- An aquatic wheelchair will also be available if an aquatic ramp is installed.



# LANDSCAPES

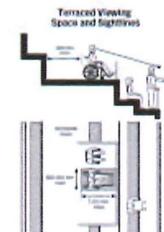
## OUTDOOR RECREATION

- A new universally designed playground will be introduced to the camp, ensuring that campers of all abilities and ages can participate in play. Safety and ease of access are crucial when it comes to designing play spaces.
- Large colour-contrasted text, pictograms, Braille, and a raised line map may be installed so that play spaces can be easily identified.
  - Engineered carpet
- Routes/pathways to play spaces will be wide enough to accommodate people using assistive devices or with a companion by their side.
- Recreation and play spaces will include both stimulating and relaxing play. Consideration will be made towards kinesthetic movement and quiet, calm escapes.
- A rich variety of ground level play features will be offered to enhance accessibility for children with mobility impairments.



## PUBLIC ASSEMBLY

- An amphitheater will be proposed on site to be used as a space for performances and public assembly.
- Accessible aisles will be provided throughout the amphitheater levels so that everyone can gather and enjoy the outdoors.



# LANDSCAPES

## TRAILS AND PATHWAYS

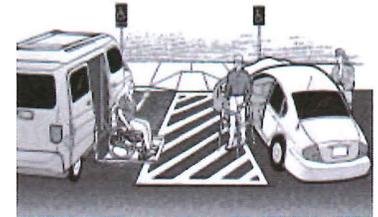
- The campgrounds have lush green vegetation and trails. The trails will be updated to 1,200-1,500mm widths so that there is enough space for people passing by on scooters/wheelchairs.
- Exterior pathways/trails will be leveled or gently sloped to give a comfortable outdoor wayfinding experience.
- Covered pathways may also be introduced to protect campers from weather elements as they move around the site.
- A navigation and informational mobile app that provides a variety of information about accessible trails and pathways, such as their location and level of difficulty can also be introduced.
- A mind-body height barrier between the walkable path and the road may assist people with autism to feel less overwhelmed by nearby cars.

## PARKING

- More parking will be added to the camp as more uses are developed. Basic considerations for accessible parking include:
  - ✓ the number and size of spaces
  - ✓ vertical clearance for vans
  - ✓ parking surfaces
  - ✓ connection to accessible routes
  - ✓ identification and signage
  - ✓ accessible ticket machines (if applicable)
  - ✓ protection from the elements
  - ✓ illumination

## LANDSCAPES

- The new parking will have clear directional signage indicating route to designated accessible, courtesy, and limited mobility spaces, and to ticket machines.
- Parking spaces shall be separated into clearly-identifiable, marked sections.
- Wayfinding from the destination shall include visual directions on the sidewalk to parking sections.
- Color coding auto-waiting areas can be provided as they simplify communication between drivers and passengers.



## PICNIC AREAS

- The new picnic areas in the camp will include tables that are universally designed to include either elongated ends and/or cutout spaces for wheelchair users. The picnic tables will be installed on slabs connected to pathways where possible.
- The picnic tables will be fixed to prevent movement away from accessible routes.
- Adequate space will be provided around picnic tables, any new fire pits, and in front of barbecue for most mobility devices.



## EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Exit signs will clearly indicate location of closest accessible emergency exit.
- Visual fire alarms will be installed to operate in conjunction with audible fire alarms.
- Fire and emergency alarm operators will be mounted at maximum height of 1,200 mm above the floor level.



DIRECTIONAL EVACUATION  
SIGN TO A REFUGE AREA

An illustration centered around a large blue smartphone. A woman in a pink shirt sits on top of the phone using a laptop. A man in a brown shirt stands on a blue step ladder in front of the phone. A woman in a blue shirt is in a wheelchair to the right, with another woman in an orange shirt standing beside her. To the left, a man in a blue shirt carries a large blue folder. The background features a sun, a lightbulb, a speech bubble, a smiley face, and various abstract shapes. The text 'TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESSIBILITY' is overlaid in white on a dark grey semi-transparent rectangle.

# TECHNOLOGY AND ACCESSIBILITY

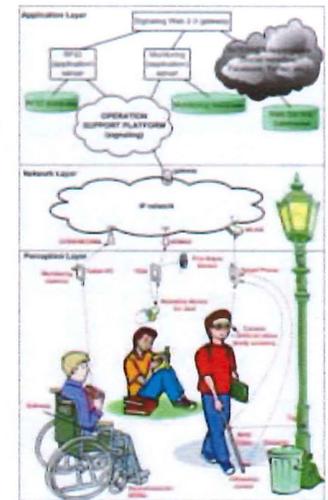
# TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

## SMART CIRCULATION

- We envision the campus to have a digital network embedded into its landscape and circulation system, possibly including:
  - Wayfinding systems where a participant can ask for directions to other locations on the campus and the smart lanyard/app will help guide them to where they need to go, including alerts to challenges along the way (such as assistance for the blind).
  - Interactive signage that can provide general or customized responses to individuals within the campus.

## PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPORT

- A smart lanyard (or equivalent, such as a cell phone app) that helps locate where campers are at anytime within the property may be used. It can provide an alert if a camper with special needs are straying from the property.
- An app can also track basic personal health factors to provide alerts to support staff should any child or participant begin to experience distress.



# TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

## SMART BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- We envision the campus to work to develop a digital network embedded into its buildings possibly including:
  - Buildings that support:
    - Digital communication within meeting / learning / activity rooms to enhance the experience, connectivity and collaboration with organizations in other locations (support retreats, learning).
    - Provision of various forms of entertainment (smart TV, high quality projected streaming of entertainment, sports, gaming, cultural events, others).
  - High environmental performance building management systems including:
    - Responsive systems that can automatically or remotely manage light, heat and other systems to the presence of individuals.
    - The management of a building where many appliances and systems are internet-enabled.
  - Safety systems including:
    - A diversity of security systems.
    - Smart bathrooms with a wide range of support features for users with disabilities.
    - Interactive modules within various parts of the building where it can engage / interact with participants.



## CONCLUSION

To conclude, universal design is a nuanced process that includes accommodating for several abilities and adapting guidelines to the challenges and opportunities of the site. The field of accessible design keeps evolving as new technology and smart building techniques are discovered.

With the help of existing and new design guidelines and technologies, Easter Seals will aim to become a world-class camping facility for individuals with disabilities and their families.



THANK YOU

