2026 - 2029
Accessibility Plan



1. Purpose and Legislative Context

The District of Barriere is committed to improving access to municipal facilities, public spaces, services and information. This plan provides a practical framework for identifying, removing and preventing barriers for people who interact with the District.

The Accessible British Columbia Act requires prescribed organizations, including municipalities, to establish an accessibility committee, develop an accessibility plan, and maintain a process for receiving public feedback about accessibility barriers. The District will review and update this plan at least once every three years.

What accessibility means

Accessibility means considering how people with different physical, sensory, cognitive, communication and other disabilities may experience a municipal space, service or process, and working to remove barriers that prevent full and equal participation.

The Act identifies six principles that are to be considered when developing and updating an accessibility plan: inclusion, adaptability, diversity, collaboration, self-determination, and universal design.

A plan that fits Barriere

Barriere is a small rural municipality. The District does not operate a municipal sidewalk network, traffic control signals or a municipal stormwater drainage system of the type found in larger urban centres. The District's accessibility work therefore focuses primarily on the facilities, parks, pathways, road rights-of-way, services, and communications that are within its control.



2. Accessibility Committee

The District's Accessibility Committee assists Council and staff in identifying barriers experienced by people who use District facilities, spaces and services, and in considering practical ways to remove or prevent those barriers.

Committee members:

- Tasha Buchanan
- Daniel Drexler
- Jamie Mosdell
- Dee Kennedy
- Gary Monteith

The District will continue to consider the membership goals set out in the Accessible British Columbia Act when appointments are made or renewed, including representation by persons with disabilities or those who support persons with disabilities, Indigenous representation, and diversity.

3. What We Have Heard and Observed

The Committee's review has focused on barriers that are relevant to Barriere's municipal facilities and public spaces. Several accessibility improvements are already in place, while a small number of practical projects have been identified for future work.

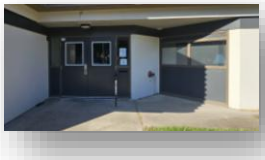
- Heavy or manually operated exterior doors can create a barrier for people using mobility devices or with limited strength.
- Gravel or unpaved pathway sections can be more difficult to use with wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, or other mobility aids.
- Safe grades, handrails, smooth surfaces, adequate lighting, and places to rest can make public spaces easier to use.
- Clear, plain-language information and multiple ways to contact the District help reduce communication and service barriers.
- Ongoing maintenance matters: snow, ice, vegetation, temporary obstacles, and surface deterioration can create barriers even where accessible features already exist.



4. Existing Accessibility Features

The District has already completed or maintains a number of features that support accessibility. These are not intended to suggest that every location is barrier-free; they provide a starting point for continued improvement.

Location	Current Accessibility Features
The Ridge – Municipal Office	The entrance is accessible from the parking area and automatic door openers were recently installed to improve independent access.
Barriere Business Centre (BBC)	Interior hallways are wide, bright and generally free of obstacles. Accessible washrooms are available. Automatic exterior door openers are not yet installed and remain a priority.
Lions Hall / Community Hall	A newer side ramp provides a more appropriate grade than the front entrance ramp and provides an accessible route for entry and emergency egress.
Fadear Park, Bandshell and Washrooms	Large portions of the park use paved pathways. The bandshell has ramp access. Lighting has been installed around the walking oval and benches are available along the route for people who need rest stops. Hard surface, accessible washrooms.
Skatepark	A pathway connects the parking area to the skatepark viewing platform and provides an accessible route for spectators and access toward the skatepark.
Fieldhouse and Park Washrooms	The area immediately outside the accessible washrooms is paved. A portion of the route to the fieldhouse remains unpaved but is maintained; paving this section is a future improvement.
Picnic Areas	A number of park picnic tables have additional concrete pad space that can accommodate wheelchair users and other mobility devices.
Main Roadway Shoulders	Main roadways, including Barriere Town Road, generally have wide shoulders. The District maintains its roadway areas in winter, and street lighting has been upgraded to LED fixtures to improve visibility.







5. Priority Actions: 2026–2029

The District will take a practical, phased approach. Projects will be considered through annual budgeting and may depend on grant funding, asset conditions, operational needs and other municipal priorities.

#	Action	Priority	Timing	Approach
1	Install automatic door openers at the Barriere Business Centre.	High	Short term *(1-3 year goal)*	Seek grant funding and complete when funding permits.
2	Improve the unpaved portion of the route to the fieldhouse, with paving identified as the preferred long-term improvement.	Medium	Medium term *(3-6 year goal)*	Maintain the existing route in usable condition until capital work can be completed.
3	Continue inspection and maintenance of ramps, pathways, accessible washrooms, benches, picnic areas, road shoulders, and other accessible features.	Ongoing	Annual	Address hazards or obstructions as they are identified.
4	Consider accessibility when planning renovations, new public amenities, and significant municipal capital projects.	Ongoing	As projects arise	Apply universal-design principles where practical and appropriate.
5	Improve communication accessibility through clear language, readable formatting, and alternative ways to obtain information or assistance.	Ongoing	2026–2029	Review public-facing forms, notices, and key documents as they are updated.
6	Maintain a public feedback process and refer accessibility concerns to staff and the Accessibility Committee for review.	Ongoing	Continuous	Track recurring issues and consider feedback when this plan is updated.

6. Services, Information and Employment

Accessibility is not limited to buildings and pathways. The District will also consider barriers that may arise when people communicate with staff, participate in municipal processes, access information, apply for employment, or receive municipal services.

Service and communication practices

- Provide information in clear, plain language where practical.
- Use readable document formatting, including meaningful headings, sufficient text size, and strong contrast.
- Provide reasonable assistance or an alternate format when a person identifies an accessibility need and the District is able to do so.
- Offer more than one way to contact the District, including in person, telephone, email and written correspondence.
- Consider accessibility when selecting or updating public-facing technology, forms, and online services.

Employment

The District will seek to identify and remove unnecessary barriers in recruitment and employment practices. Where an employee or applicant identifies an accessibility-related need, the District will consider reasonable accommodation in accordance with applicable law and operational requirements.

7. Public Feedback

Public feedback is an important part of identifying barriers that may not be apparent during routine municipal operations. Residents, visitors, and service users are encouraged to tell the District about accessibility barriers they encounter or suggestions for improving this plan.

Email	inquiry@barriere.ca
Phone	250-672-9751
In person	The Ridge, 4936 Barriere Town Road, Barriere, BC
Mail	District of Barriere, Box 219, Barriere, BC V0E 1E0

Feedback may be provided by a person directly or on behalf of another person. Accessibility feedback will be reviewed by staff and, where appropriate, brought to the Accessibility Committee for consideration. Feedback received will also be considered when the plan is updated.

8. Monitoring and Review

This is intended to be a living plan. Staff and the Accessibility Committee may identify additional barriers or opportunities between formal updates. Minor operational improvements can be addressed as they arise, while larger projects will be considered through the District's budgeting and capital planning processes.

- The Accessibility Committee will review accessibility issues and public feedback as needed.
- Staff will monitor progress on the priority actions in this plan.
- The plan will be formally reviewed and updated no later than 2029, and at least every three years thereafter.
- Future updates will consider public feedback received and will be developed in consultation with the Accessibility Committee.

9. Our Commitment

The District of Barriere recognizes that accessibility is an ongoing responsibility rather than a one-time project. In a small municipality, meaningful improvements are often achieved through practical changes made over time: a better entrance, a smoother route, clearer information, improved lighting, or a barrier removed when it is identified. The District will continue to focus its resources on improvements that make municipal spaces and services easier and safer for people of all abilities to use.

Reference

Accessible British Columbia Act, SBC 2021, c. 19, Part 3; Accessible British Columbia Regulation, B.C. Reg. 105/2022. Municipalities have been prescribed organizations under the Regulation since September 1, 2023.

