



# The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers Adopts Age-Friendly and Accessibility Action Plan

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## **Sables-Spanish Rivers adopts Age-Friendly & Accessibility Action Plan**

[Sables-Spanish Rivers, ON] – The Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers has formally adopted its new Age-Friendly and Accessibility Action Plan, marking an important milestone in building a more inclusive, welcoming community for older adults, people living with disabilities, and residents of all ages.

With nearly one in four residents aged 65 and over, and many more approaching older adulthood, the Plan responds to clear demographic trends and community input highlighting the need for accessible programs, services, and public spaces across the Township. The Action Plan provides a practical roadmap for 2026–2029, outlining concrete steps to remove barriers, enhance participation, and support aging in place in Sables-Spanish Rivers.

“Council is proud to endorse this Plan as a tool to guide our decisions and investments in ways that support independence, connection, and safety for residents of all ages and abilities,” said Kevin Burke, Mayor of Sables-Spanish Rivers. “The voices of residents were central to shaping this Plan. The feedback we heard about transportation, housing, accessibility of buildings, communication, and social connection has directly informed the actions we will now put into practice. This is about making sure people can remain active and involved in the community they call home.”

Developed through community surveys, interviews, open houses, and facility assessments, the Plan focuses on key areas such as outdoor spaces and public buildings, housing, transportation, social participation, civic engagement and employment, respect and inclusion, communication and information, and community support and health services. It also integrates accessibility priorities across municipal policies, infrastructure, and communications to support a consistent, barrier-free approach.

Early implementation will include actions such as continuing accessibility upgrades to public facilities and outdoor spaces, improving communication about available services and supports, and strengthening partnerships with local organizations to deliver programs that reduce isolation and support aging in place. The Plan aligns with the Township’s 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, reinforcing goals related to a healthy, vibrant, and connected rural community.

Council would like to formally recognize and thank the government of Ontario for awarding funding for this project through the 2024-2025 Inclusive Community Grant program. \$34,000 in grant funds were received to bring this project to fruition and assist the municipality in achieving and sustaining an inclusive and accessible community.

The Age-Friendly and Accessibility Action Plan is available on the Township’s website or by request from the municipal office. Residents, community organizations, and partners are encouraged to review the Plan and stay engaged as actions move forward over the coming years.

### **Contact**

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