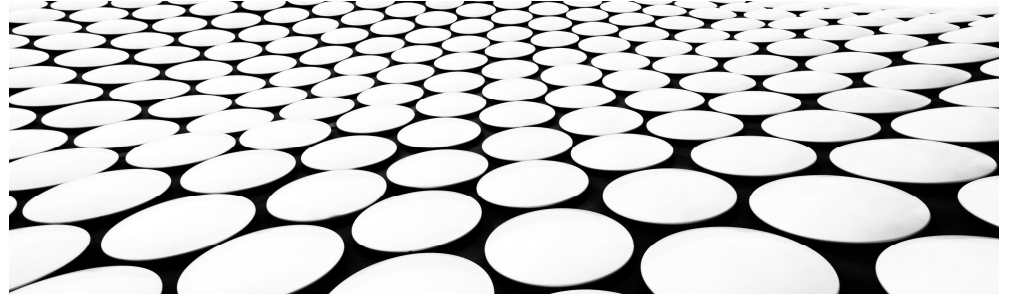


COMMERCIAL ACCESSIBILITY

A PRESENTATION

TO PARKSVILLE DOWNTOWN
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

MARCH 3, 2026



ACCESS
OCEANSIDE
ASSOCIATION



Our Mission

To enhance the lives of people living with disabilities.

Our Purpose

To bring awareness, inform and educate the community about challenges faced by those living with disabilities.

Our Goal

To create a barrier-free community.



WITH OUR DEMOGRAPHICS, THE OCEANSIDE REGION HAS A HIGHER PROPORTION OF PERSONS LIVING WITH A MOBILITY DISABILITY.

Parksville 17% of population

Qualicum Beach 19%

ANOTHER GOOD INDICATOR OF PERSONS LIVING WITH A MOBILITY DISABILITY IN OCEANSIDE IS THE UBIQUITOUS ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMIT.

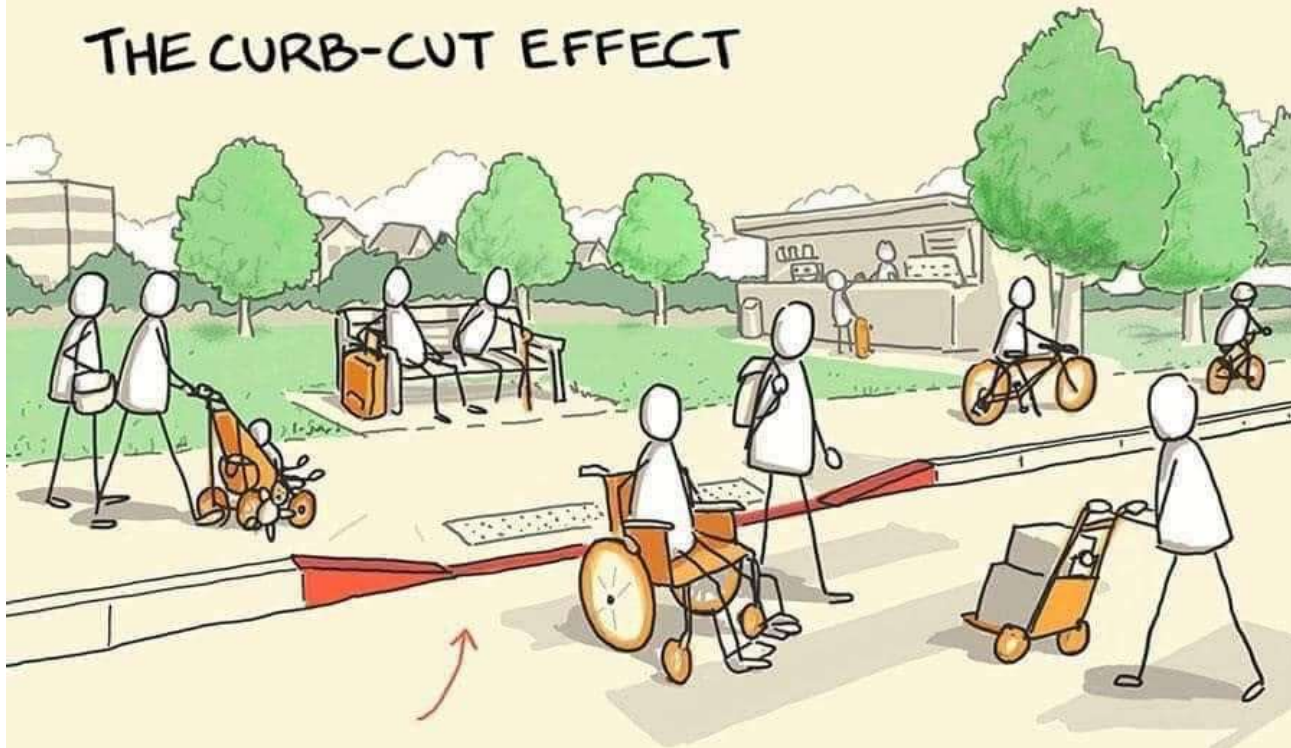
Parksville 22% of households

Qualicum Beach 18%

1 in 5



THE CURB-CUT EFFECT



WHEN WE DESIGN
FOR DISABILITIES

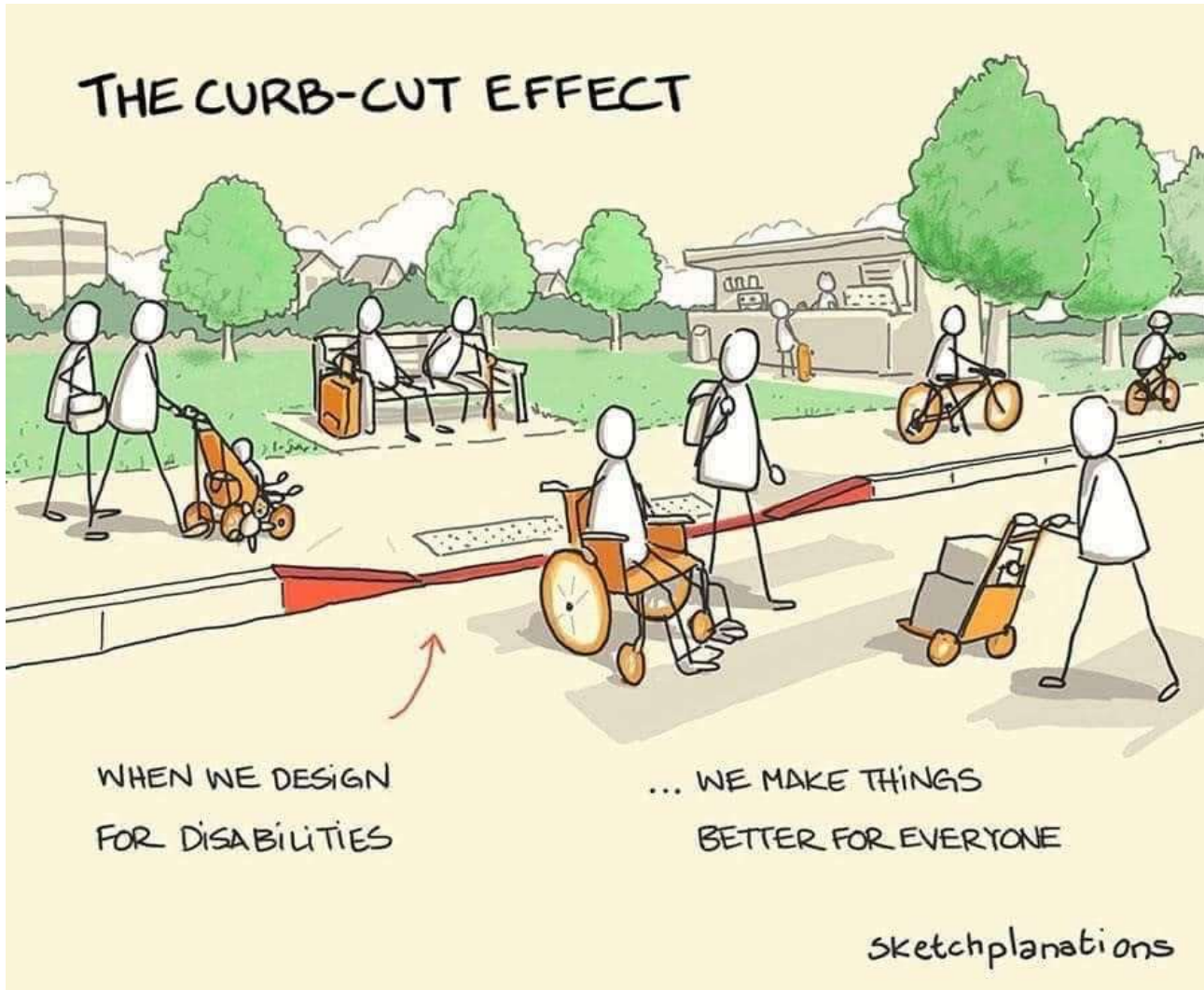
... WE MAKE THINGS
BETTER FOR EVERYONE

sketchplanations

Universal Design

Is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.





WORDS OF WISDOM

“Accessibility is personal.”

It depends on individual experiences and needs.

“Accessibility isn’t one-size-fits-all.”

Multiple voices matter.

“You don’t know what you don’t know.”



STARTING POINT : DOWNTOWN PARKSVILLE

- Concentration of businesses used by residents of and visitors to Oceanside
- Good cross-section of businesses
(e.g. restaurants, salons, stores, medical, professionals)
- A strong partner in Parksville Downtown Business Association

Successive roll-out to :

- Rest of Parksville (e.g. Wembley Mall)
- Qualicum Beach
- Rest of Oceanside
(e.g. Coombs, French Creek, Bowser, etc.)



COMMERCIAL ACCESSIBILITY : WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS ?

Many of the commercial buildings in the Oceanside Area pre-date modern building codes which now have accessibility “baked in”. Our areas of focus are therefore on ...

- Accessible Parking : Are there well-marked accessible parking spaces nearby ?
- External Access : Is the entrance door operable without assistance ?
Is there a slope to contend with ?
- Internal Navigation : Are the store aisles wide enough for a person using a mobility device (e.g. wheelchair / walker) to safely navigate the store and see all the merchandise ? Is there a low service counter ?
- Change Rooms : Large enough for disabled persons using mobility devices ?
- Washroom Facilities : If needed, is there an accessible washroom ?



SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Our goal is not to give your business a “thumbs up or thumbs down” on accessibility, but rather to help you understand how to improve access to your business for all Customers.



ACCESS OCEANSIDE ASSOCIATION

*Removing Barriers
for people with disabilities*



Be part of the change !

**Make your business
more accessible to all**

www.accessoceanside.com

Accessibility in the Retail Landscape

Did you know that 28% of BC residents are living with a disability? We need your help to remove barriers for people with disabilities in Oceanside.

Here are some simple things retailers can do to make their stores accessible:

- **Entry Doors**
 - Ensure door actuators are working
 - Install a doorbell so Customers can call for assistance to enter the store.
- **Clear Aisles**, wide enough to accommodate wheelchair users
- **Low countertops and displays**
- **Simple store signage and wayfinding**
- **Reduce environmental stimuli**, such as glaring lights, loud music, strong scents
- **Accessible washrooms & change rooms**

Resource Information

Retail Council of Canada
www.retailcouncil.org/resources/accessibility/accessibility-guidebook/

Rick Hansen Foundation
www.rickhansen.com/become-accessible/accessibility-resources

Contact us: info@accessoceanside.com
Facebook: [Access Oceanside Association](#)

Follow our progress: www.AccessNow.com

OUR TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

- Developed and based in Canada

- Available on
or at



www.accessnow.com



Accessibility for all

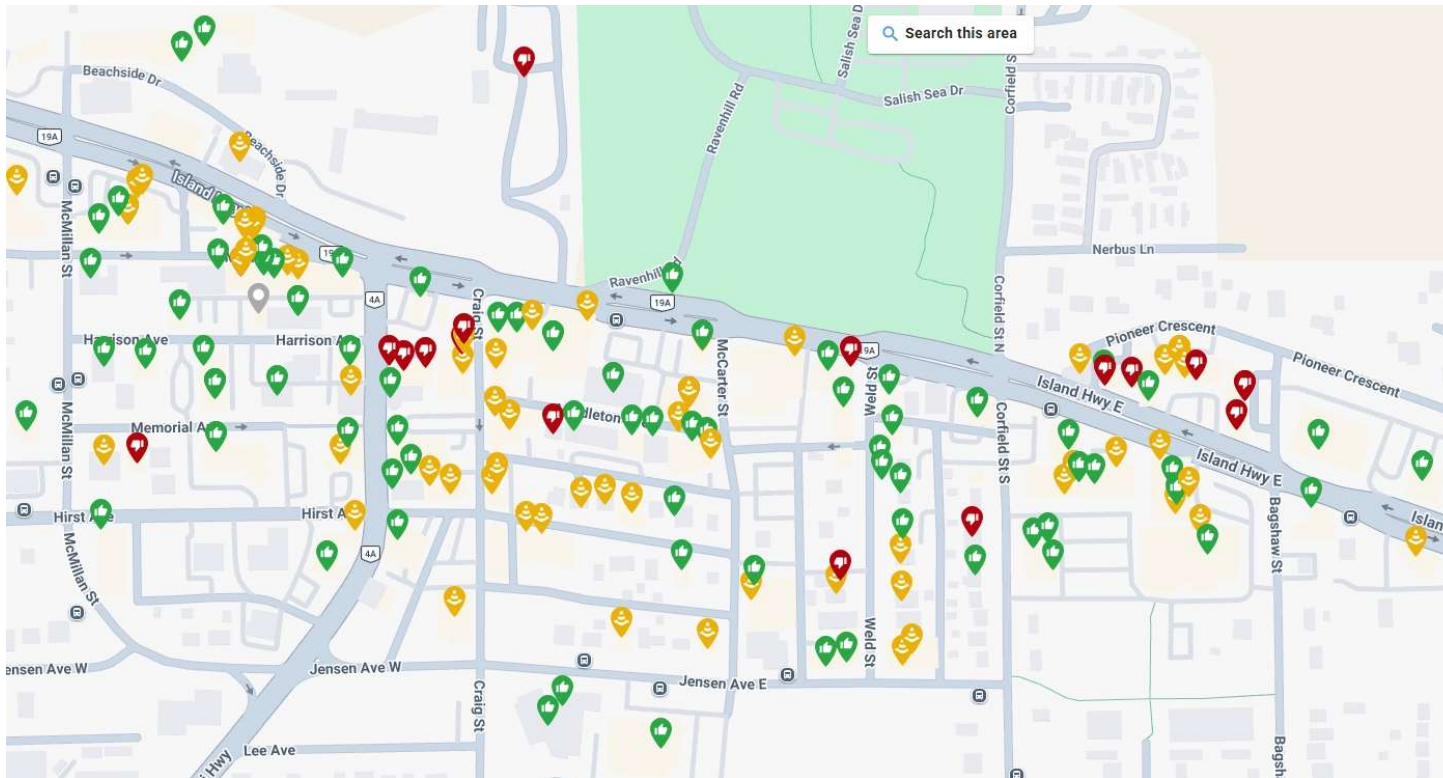
The world isn't designed for everyone in mind. Millions of places all around the world are still inaccessible to people with disabilities. That's why we're building a movement that celebrates access by connecting people to inclusive, welcoming places for all.



PARKSVILLE DOWNTOWN ACCESSIBILITY SURVEYS



Surveys are reflected on a searchable map powered by Google.



DETAILED ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY RESULTS



McMillan Arts Centre

133 McMillan St, Parksville, BC V9P 2H5, Canada
+1 250-248-8185
mcmillanartscentre.com

Accessible Parking, Accessible Seating, Accessible Washroom - Private, Accessible Washroom - Stall, Barrier-Free Entrance, Barrier-Free Sink, Customer Service, Gender Neutral, Handrails, Quiet, Ramp, Spacious

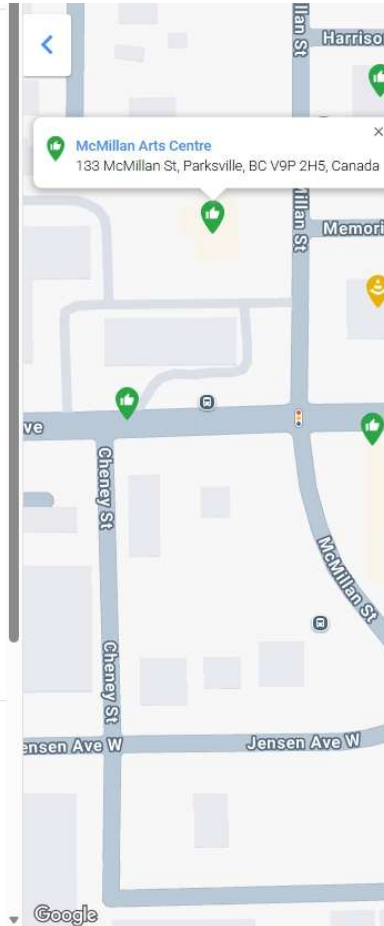
AI Accessibility Assistant (Beta)
Get instant answers
[Generate Overview](#)

[Add Review](#) [Report A Problem](#)

Reviews

AccessOceanside11
10 months ago
Rated Accessible
Accessible Parking, Barrier-Free Entrance, Ramp, Accessible Seating, Customer Service, Quiet, Spacious, Handrails, Accessible Washroom - Private, Accessible Washroom - Stall, Barrier-Free Sink, Gender Neutral

The McMillan Art Centre has been doing a lot of work on its accessibility and have made great progress. There are two accessible parking spots



Surveys cover a range of accessibility topics such as:

- Parking
- Entry
- Interior navigation
- Washrooms
- Service animal friendly

Remember that the survey reflects an individual perspective, so detailed comments are important.



COMMERCIAL ACCESSIBILITY : PARKSVILLE DOWNTOWN

Status Jan. 28, 2026	Surveys	Automatic Doors	Doorbell Installed	Entry with Staff Assist	No Staff Ability to Assist Entry	Not Accessible
Service	63	13	8	22	9	11
Stores	51	20	1	23	17	
Medical	23	11	1	4	7	
Restaurants	18	3		10	3	2
Grocery	4	4				
TOTAL	159	41	10	59	36	13

32 %

37 %

31 %

100% Accessible :
Banks, Pharmacies, Grocery & Liquor Stores



BARRIER NR. 1 : ACCESSIBLE PARKING



BARRIER NR. 2 : EXTERNAL ACCESS



Gold
Standard



BARRIER NR. 3 : ACCESSIBLE WASHROOM



- Room to maneuver
- Safety bars
- Barrier-free sink
(with automatic faucet)
- Accessible wastebin

NEXT STEPS : WORKING TOGETHER

On Entry

- installation of door actuator or doorbell
- overcoming barriers such as steps
- availability of accessible parking

On Accessibility within your business

- navigation / aisle widths
- washrooms / change rooms

PDBA
Imagine
Parksville

Contact us.
We'd love to help !

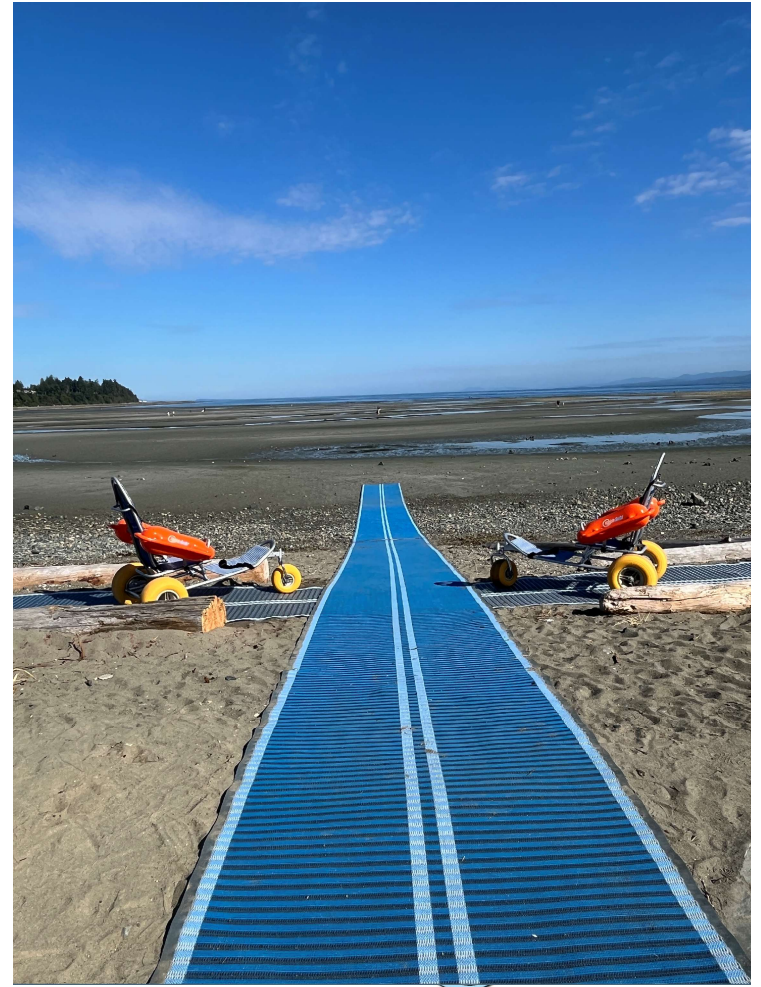




March 15, 2024



July 19, 2024



PARKSVILLE BEACH MAT PROJECT - 2024



Initial Target Group
July 17 - 12:39



Secondary Target Group
July 17 - 12:45



Everyone!
12:53



SUNDAY AUG. 4 1:50 TO 4:50 PM



In 3 hours on a beautiful holiday weekend, the AOA surveyor recorded ...

- 7 persons using disability devices
- 28 persons pushing strollers
- 56 persons pulling wagons

and 64 dogs

First 10 minutes = 112 trips

First 30 minutes = 313 trips

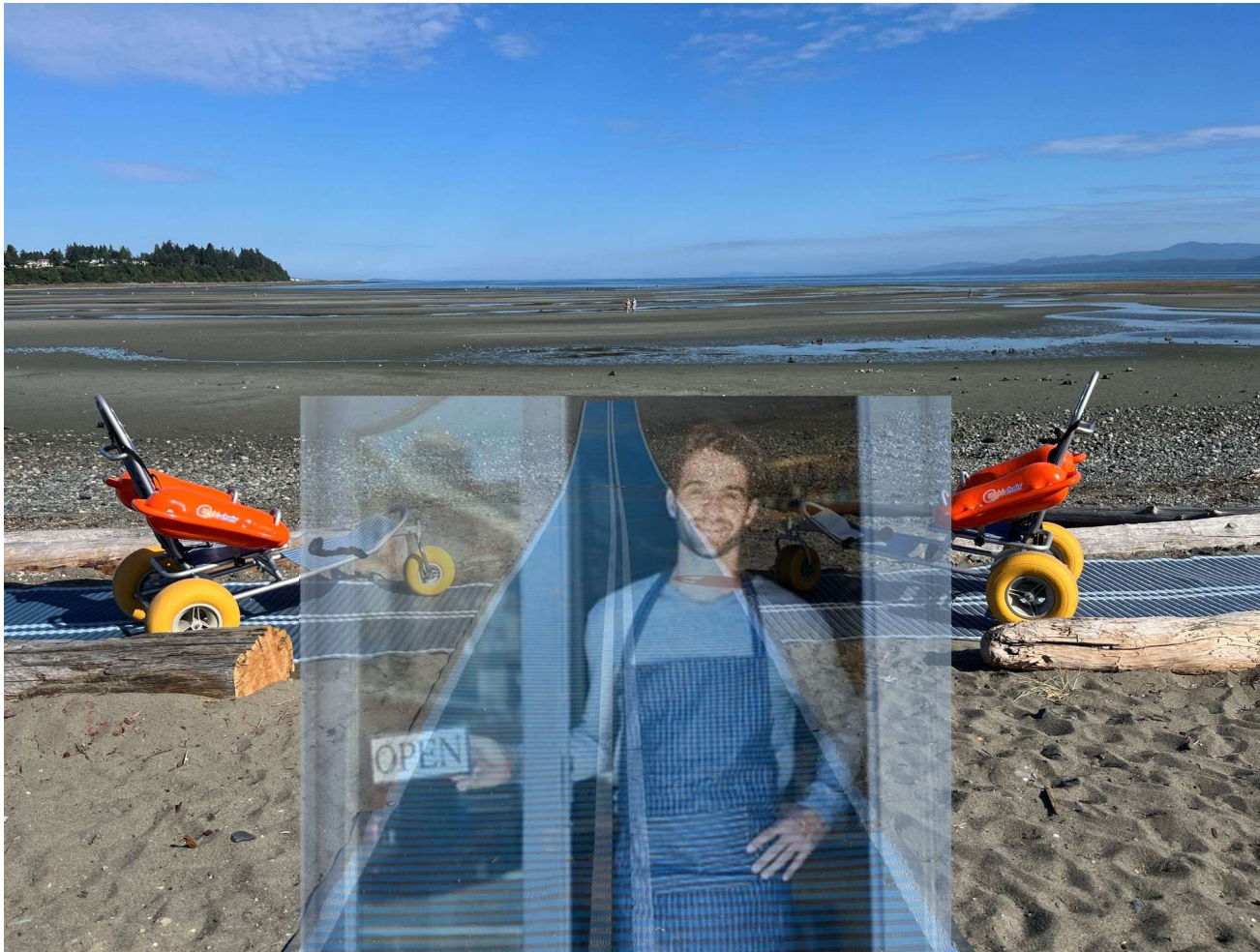
First 60 minutes = 633 trips

First 86 minutes = 1,000 trips

First 120 minutes = 1,290 trips

180 minutes = 1,893 trips





Open Your Door

By making your business accessible, you open the door to more Clientele.

Clientele who will become loyal regular Customers ...

Clientele who will “spread the word”, further growing your business.

