

Avon Township Access Permits

General: Any resident who plans to move, change the physical dimensions, or slopes of an existing access (*including driveways and field approaches*), or adding a new access to his/her property in the Township road right-of-way requires an Avon Township Access Permit. Changing the surface material does not require an Access Permit. Access permits are required to ensure that Township roads are not damaged and that there is no public safety hazard created by the access. The permit costs \$50.00. There is a \$500.00 damage deposit that is collected when the permit is issued; it is refunded if no damage is done to the Town road during construction and all standards have been met.

Standards – *Accesses in Avon Township should meet the following standards (Resolution 01-06-21):*

1. All accesses shall be aligned to be straight and perpendicular to the centerline of the road within the limits of the Township right-of-way.
2. All accesses will be aligned with street or entrances on the opposing side of the roadway if possible.
3. Avon Township will determine if culverts and aprons are required, and the size/length that is required.
4. Culverts will be a minimum of 15 inches in diameter and made of steel or DOT-approved double walled plastic.
5. Aprons will accompany culverts and also be made of steel or DOT-approved plastic.
6. It is not permitted to remove the short heel that extends from the Township road into the driveway or access without approval by the Township Road Supervisor.
7. Separation distance from other accesses is at the discretion of Avon Township. Generally, only one access per 40 acres or smaller parcel is granted unless the resident can show a specific need for the additional access. All new accesses should be a minimum of 125 feet from any other access or intersection.
8. Accesses will conform to the standards of Stearns County (Highway Department Access and Right of Way Width Guidelines) including:
 - a. Residential access surfacing width shall be a minimum of 16 feet and/or a maximum of 24 feet;
 - b. Commercial and industrial access surfacing shall be 30 feet in width;
 - c. Field accesses shall be a minimum of 16 feet in width;
 - d. Entrance/access widths of up to a maximum of 40 feet will be considered under special circumstances (such as high volumes of semi-tractor trailers, field accesses, narrow adjacent roadways, etc.);

- e. Street accesses shall be a minimum of 30 feet in width and shall be paved within the limits of the Township right-of-way or graded to drain away from the Township roadway; and
- f. Only breakaway mailbox posts are permitted.
- g. An access must be set back from a side lot at least 10 feet, unless there are special circumstances (*i.e.*, shared accesses, limited space, obstructions) that will be examined on a case-by-case basis. The Supervisors, at their discretion, can approve requests for an exemption from this rule.

Non-Conforming Requests – Avon Township Board of Supervisors make the final decision about any Access Permit that is issued in the Township. If a requested access is more than 40 feet wide, it requires a variance hearing for approval. A request for an access between 24 – 40 feet will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, which will forward a recommendation to the Supervisors for consideration for approval. Any deviation from these policies must first be approved by the Avon Township Road Supervisor, or a designee, prior to construction. Failure to comply with the Avon Township Access Permit policies will result in a forfeiture of the damage deposit.

Access Inspector – The Avon Township Road Supervisor or designee is responsible for documenting the road condition before and after the work, determining if a culvert and aprons are required, and whether or not the completed work meets Township specifications.

update: *January 2025*