



Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Programs & Services

March 2011



Program Mission

Mission Statement: Parks, Forestry & Recreation

Parks, Forestry and Recreation brings together all of Toronto's diverse communities on a common ground. We provide a wide variety of leisure and recreational opportunities that include all Toronto residents. In our centres, parks and playing fields, we encourage communities to help themselves, and aid Torontonians to become the best they can be. We measure our success by quality, satisfaction and community development outcomes. Our parks, playing fields and recreation centres and amenities along with our trails, forests, meadows, marshes, and ravines, will be beautiful, clean, safe, and accessible, meeting all our communities' needs.



Staff and Volunteers

- 1800 Permanent Employees.
- 1100 Seasonal, Full-Time Employees (Summer Peak)
- Over 9,000 active Part-Time and Casual Recreation Workers
- Over 6,000 direct program Volunteers City-wide
- Youth employment fairs held annually to provide information on summer and part-time employment opportunities



Specific Program Areas

- General Interest and Art
- Instructional and drop-in Sports
- Swimming and Aquatic Leadership
- Camps – General, Specialized and Youth Leadership (Summer and March-Break)
- Active Living – Fitness, Wellness and Skating
- Older adult programming
- Capacity building programs with partners and agencies
- Community Engagement Initiatives
- Access and Diversity Services



Facilities & Resources (Community Recreation)

- 134 Community Centres
- 67 Indoor Pool locations
- 58 Outdoor Pool locations
- 183 Wading Pools & Waterplay locations
- 40 City-Operated Arenas with 48 Ice Surfaces
- 51 Outdoor Artificial Ice Rinks
- 2 Ski & Snowboard Centres
- 401 program locations for registered programs
- 276 program locations for drop-in programs



Programs and Participation

- 8.25 million program visits per year (4.25 million in registered programs and 4 million in drop-in programs)
- 62,256 registered programs
- 459,420 registrations and 85,819 waitlisted
- 6% of all Toronto residents participate in registered programs
- 3,241 drop-in programs
- 24,312 permits
- 646 special events with over 2 million in attendance



Facilities & Resources (Parks, Parkland and Ravines)

- 1,512 parks in 7,527 hectares of parkland and natural areas across the City.
- 4,356 hectares of parkland is maintained with 3,084 hectares of maintained turf.
- 835 sports fields.
- 789 rentals or 13,923 bookings each year for the use of these fields.
- 580 km of trails and pathways.
- Greenhouses for plant production: over 1.3 million annuals produced in 8 greenhouses.
- Horticultural design, planting and maintenance of horticultural displays.



Facilities & Resources (Parks, Parkland and Ravines) – Con'd

- 7 of 15 recreational beaches are internationally certified Blue Flag
- Island is a park destination with 1.3 million visitor annually
- Farms: High Park Zoo, Riverdale and Toronto Island Farms; 1.8 million zoo visitors annually.
- 51 Community gardens provide opportunities to community groups to start food, flower or native species gardens
- 11 outdoor allotment gardens and 1 indoor allotment garden for a total of 1,674 plots where citizens grow food through a paid seasonal permit
- 17 Children's Gardens
- 5 Golf Courses: Don Valley, Humber Valley, Scarlett Woods, Tam O'Shanter and Dentonia on 201 hectares of property.



Facilities & Resources (Forestry)

- Forestry Operations: Maintain, remove & plant trees on streets and in parks: 600,000 trees managed –
- 45,000 tree inspections per year and 60,000 trees pruned per year
- Tree Protection and Plan Review (TPPR): Private and
- City tree bylaw enforcement
- Planting and Natural Environment Management: Tree planting, community programs, forest health care -
- Over 14,000 calliper trees and over 100,000 small trees & shrubs planted annually



Access to Programs & Services

- On-line registration available since 2008
- Approx. 30,000 individuals approved for Welcome Policy each year
- Special needs integration services
- In-person, phone, and TTR registration methods available
- FunGuide distributed locally and available on-line
- www.toronto.ca/parks or call 311



Community Engagement

- Toronto Newcomer Initiative (July 2010 – March 2011)
- Investing In Families (Since 2007 and ongoing)
- Parks ambassador program



Parks Ambassadors

- Program developed to address homelessness in City Parks
- Vital partnership with Shelter, Housing & Support and the development of Streets to Homes and Street Helpline
- Ambassadors tour 132 downtown parks and ensure the implementation homeless policy
- Program's main objective is to dedicate and assist homeless individuals in gaining access to Shelter and Housing Support Services.
- Other incident supports may also be provided by parks ambassadors on case by case basis.



Community Recreation Service Plan

- In 2009 Parks, Forestry and Recreation began the initial phases of a 5 year service planning exercise for its Parks and Community Recreation branches
- The Recreation Service Plan is guided by four main principles: equity, quality, inclusion and capacity building
- As part of this exercise, extensive stakeholder and public consultation will be conducted
- All existing stakeholders will be invited to attend consultation meeting at various locations
- Surveys will also be conducted to receive feedback on the Division's programs and services
- Agencies and partners will be able to facilitate their own consultation through a tool-kit provided by staff



Access & Diversity Services

- Policy and Research on trends and shifts in diversity
- Community Access and Engagement
- Training and Development
- Corporate and Special Events
- Conflict Resolution
- Pilot Diverse Recreation Programming



Investing In Families

- Enhanced access to recreational programs for families involved in the Welcome Policy
- One on one consultation with recreation staff on programming opportunities through the City
- Access to “outside” recreation services providers through the TESS funding
- Availability of funding for program supplies / equipments through TESS
- Over 1600 families served in 2010



Toronto Newcomer Initiative

- Federally funded initiative (Citizenship & Immigration Canada)
- Phase 1 (Sep 2010 – March 2011) included Settlement Services at City Facilities and Recreation Programming geared towards newcomers
- Enhance staff knowledge and skills for when working with newcomers
- Sustainable partnership with the Settlement Sector
- Phase 2 (April – December 2011) includes the implementation of the partnership through City LIPs and continued recreational programming geared towards newcomers



Questions...

Thank You!